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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to visit
the Taste of the
Marianas festival
this year?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Myanmar's military regime allowed
in the first major international aid
shipment Thursday.

ASIA...Page 10

Earth Team

Friends of the Mariana Islands and
Angelo O'Connor Villagomez were
recently presented the Earth Team
Volunteer Award and Certificates
for their environmental efforts.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



Truly Married

Mariah Carey really did get married
to Nick Cannon in the Bahamas last
week—and they have the tattoos to
prove it.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'Rehab of power plants is best option right now' PAGE 2
Bush asked to fund Prior Service pensions. PAGE 5



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A banner showing support for federalization made by local activist Joseph M. Mendiola is displayed during the first general assembly of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) at the Garapan Central Park.

Bush signs federalization bill

CNMI loses local control of immigration

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

President George W. Bush has signed into law the bill applying federal immigration law to the Northern Marianas and granting the Commonwealth a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

'Process begins now to stabilize workforce'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

With the signing of the federalization bill by President Bush yesterday, proponents

said there are so many things to be done now to stabilize the workforce during the transition period.

Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff told *Saipan*

The clock now starts ticking on the five federal agencies tasked to draft the regulations implementing the immigration "federalization" law. Under the new law, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security must work with the State Secretary, the Attorney General, the Labor Secretary, and the Interior Secretary to establish the transition

See **BUSH** on Page 4

Tribune that "the process begins now."

Woodruff said the federal government has the authority now to start working on the

See **PROCESS** on Page 4

PTI purchase of IT&E now final

GUAM—Pacific Telecom, Inc.'s Guam subsidiary, PTI Pacifica, Inc., has completed the purchase of selected current telecommunication assets and the IT&E brand name. The company will continue to operate as IT&E. All plans, rates and service charges will continue without any changes to IT&E customers.



"Now that IT&E's asset purchase has been completed,

and their subscribers have been moved to PTI's own frequency, we look forward to implementing our substantial capital expenditure program, and bring in new and exciting services to the residents of Guam in the near future," said Ricky Delgado, president and CEO of PTI.

IT&E's cellular, long distance, Internet, and business

See **PTI** on Page 4

Local

'Rehab of power plants is best right now'

Antonio Muna, the new Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director, said the rehabilitation of engines at the power plants is the best option that right now rather than privatization.

"Privatizing a performing asset means we will get a maximum return versus trying to privatize something or sell something that is not performing," Muna told the media.

The executive director said the Fitial administration and CUC are focusing on the rehabilitation aspect at the moment but hope that privatization could soon be done.

"At the end of the day, we've got to do what's best for the entity, CUC. But at the same time what's best in the public's interest," he said.

Muna said if the public interest is to pursue privatization, that will be the recommendation he is willing to make.

"If it's in the best interest to keep that [repair and rehabilitation] because we can make some improvements and that we can perform accordingly, then we'll do so in that regard as well," the CUC official said.

Hopwood to work on master plan, action plan

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Hopwood Jr. High School received commendations and positive reviews from the Western Association of School and Colleges committee on Tuesday.

The three-member WASC team consisted of Richard Anbe, chairperson of the accrediting team, Robert Maez and Roberta Abaday. The purpose of the visit, according to Anbe, was to validate what HJHS noted in their self-study report to the WASC team.

"We feel really good with what we see. We feel that there has been growth but we also feel that there could have been more growth," Anbe said.

Anbe was referring to Hopwood's need to refine its master plan and action plan that

both teachers and their students can follow.

"We worked with the leadership team to do that. Their job now is to complete that action plan and implement it. That is the whole gist here—to have an action plan and then implement it to make it work," Anbe said.

He explained that the action plan will be sort of an umbrella

plan that is teacher-oriented and student-oriented, which both parties could easily follow.

Otherwise he said, the school has been showing progress.

"Their test scores have shown some gain, they have made some strides and have made some changes to the school and that was one of the things that we were looking for. We also

In July 2007, the Office of Public Auditor ordered the cancellation of the request for proposal to privatize CUC's power operations.

In OPA's order, public auditor Michael S. Sablan ruled that CUC failed to conduct the procurement process fairly and transparently, and discouraged competition by charging exorbitant fees. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Bar association gives \$7.4K to MLSC

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. received yesterday its first contribution ever from the NMI Bar Association in the amount of \$7,400.

In January 2007, the NMI Bar Association adopted an amendment to its bylaws to help provide support for legal representation of poor people in the CNMI. A

portion of each member's annual membership dues is earmarked as a contribution to MLSC.

"Poor people often need legal services, and have more contact with the legal system than the ordinary middle class person," said Jane Mack, directing attorney for the Marianas Office of MLSC. "Indigents need representation in

found that it was a very nice visit with them and a very successful one. They have made gains in those areas where they needed to make gains," Anbe said.

Anbe is remaining on Saipan to visit with Marianas High School next week.

He will also pay a visit to the Garapan Elementary School and Gregorio T. Elementary School.

civil cases from adoption to probate, from divorce to debts they owe," she said.

MLSC is a private, non-profit corporation that provides free legal aid to indigents in civil cases. Mack expressed thanks to the NMI Bar Association from MLSC for itself and on behalf

See BAR on Page 4

OGA request reveals a clean government

An Open Government Act request made by Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. has shown that there was no impropriety regarding the compensation of Antonio S. Muna as a special financial consultant to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Cruz, a controversial activist, recently invoked the CNMI Open Government Act to inquire into the compensation of Muna, the Governor's former Special Assistant for the Office of Management and Budget, and found nothing to incriminate the Fitial administration in this connection.

According to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, Muna, who is now CUC's executive director, received no compensation for his work as a financial consultant to the governor after he left OMB.

"For painstakingly preparing the governor's submitted FY 09 Budget Proposal, Tony Muna received zero compensation," said Inos.

Muna resigned as the Governor's Special Assistant for OMB in December 2007, yet continued to provide financial advice and consultation to Fi-



Muna

tial until his recent appointment to CUC as executive director.

In his May 8 reply letter to Cruz, Inos said, "Please be advised that a consulting contract was not consummated between the CNMI and Mr. Muna for any professional services rendered...since [his] date of resignation as [Special Assistant for OMB]. Furthermore, please be advised that Mr. Muna has not been compensated for any services provided to the CNMI during the same period."

"Mr. Cruz is looking for dirt in all the wrong places," said press secretary Charles Reyes.

See OGA on Page 4



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NMC to use \$380K to fill critical positions

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College said it will be requesting to use some of the \$380,000 committed by Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to fill critical positions at the college to help it reach full compliance once the money becomes available.

NMC president Carmen Fernandez said that there are at least four positions that the NMC

Rota delegation gets expenditure power over future casino monies

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill allowing the Rota Legislative Delegation to decide how the island's future casino gaming revenues will be spent.

House Bill 16-1, now Public Law 16-4, also exempts the appropriation of revenues generated by Rota casino gaming from the procedural strictures of the Local Law Act of 1983.

Fitial, in approving House Bill 16-1, said the legislation mirrors the concerns as addressed by Public Law 11-17 regarding the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission. The previous law clarified the conflict between the appropriation requirements of the Local Law Act of 1983 and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act.

The governor cited another reason for approving the bill: "It is strongly supported by both houses of the Legislature in an effort to assist and move forward with the casino initiative as enacted by the voters of the First Senatorial District."

The Rota Municipal Council

HPO: This Place Matters

The Commonwealth will mark Historic Preservation Week on May 18-24, 2007, according to a proclamation signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday.

"This place matters" is the theme for this year's CNMI Historic Preservation Week whereby the citizens are urged to recognize and celebrate the significance of their historic, archaeological, and cultural resources as a source of economic development, education and identity.

The governor is urging all residents to recognize the importance of historic preservation "and work toward a greater understanding of our archaeological history and culture."

The proclamation reads that it is important to understand the role of history in one's life and to appreciate the contributions made by individuals who preserve the heritage that shapes them as a people.

HPO Director Roy Sablan is asking schools throughout the island to call the office at

management team has identified to be critical.

"We started out with 10 but now it's down to four. So we've actually shortened the list. We sat down and deliberated extensively to decide what those most critical positions are," Fernandez said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has confirmed the \$380,000 to NMC, said he fully supports the college president's efforts to meet full compliance and that

he has dedicated that amount to the institution to fund critical staff requirements and renovation and repairs.

The governor added that he is exploring a plan to leverage federal Capital Improvement Project funds so as to provide the needed operational cost of the college.

Fernandez said the college has yet to receive the \$380,000 from the Finance secretary and that she is making follow-up calls as often as possible until it is received.

In the NMC Compliance Action Plan, Fernandez outlined the need to continue filling critical positions for each month consecutively from January 2008 to December 2008.

She explained that it is because the recruitment process is ongoing.

"And because of the situation

that we're in, we can almost technically view any position as critical because we're operating on a very bold structure," Fer-

nandez said.

There are at least 10 regular positions that have yet to be filled at NMC.

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Diabetes group to host Bingo fundraiser

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is holding a Bingo Night fundraiser on May 30, from 6pm to 12am, at the Garapan Fishing Base (where the Liberation Day Festival is held every year).

The cost is \$20 per ticket. There will be eight regular games with prizes of \$100 per game, one mini-jacket pot game with a prize of \$250, and one blackout game with a prize of \$450.

Also, for an additional \$20 a separate

ticket can be purchased for the "Bingo For Life" game. Prizes for that game are \$50,000 jackpot, \$2,000 consolation prize, and \$1,500 package payout.

The public's support will be greatly appreciated. You can stop by the PT Department at CHC to pick up a ticket (7:30am-4:30pm).

If you aren't able to attend, or BINGO is just not your thing, consider purchasing a ticket in support of the Coalition. It you purchase a ticket, there will

be volunteers who will play your card for you, and deliver your winnings after the event!

The Coalition is a non-governmental organization that receives no funding from the government. They rely entirely on fundraising, public health grants, and community support in order to provide these services.

The Diabetes Coalition sponsors the Wise Women Village Project that offers

health screenings in the community for local women, Walk on Wednesday's for blood pressure and blood glucose screening, continuing education for healthcare professionals in the CNMI, and the Foot Clinic that is run out of the Physical Therapy department at CHC. They also pay for newspaper, radio and TV ads to provide education on diabetes prevention and control to the community.

Diabetes is a serious health problem affecting a large percentage of our island population. The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is a non-profit umbrella organization that is made of of a partnership between governmental and non-governmental organizations on island. It consists of members from Public Health, CHC, Diabetes Prevention & Control Program, the Ayuda Network, Marianas Health Services, the religious communities, Bangladesh community, Filipino community, and Chinese community, to name a few. (PR)

BAR

From Page 2

of all of the clients they serve.

Maya Kara, president of the NMI Bar Association said, "I have the highest regard for attorneys who dedicate themselves to assisting indigent clients.

OGA

From Page 2

Reyes said that Cruz has been deliberately targeting the administration for criticism after his unsuccessful bid to secure employment with the cash-

It is my privilege to be president of a Bar Association that has stepped up to the plate to support legal services for those who cannot otherwise afford it. Equality under the law is meaningless unless you have access to representation. I am grateful to the members of the Bar Association for supporting this policy." (PR)

strapped central government.

"Since he could not find a job with our administration, Mr. Cruz has apparently taken on a full time job as our primary critic," said Reyes. "I wish him the best of luck in his fishing expeditions, but I doubt he will ever catch any fish or hit pay dirt." (PR)

PTI

From Page 1

phone and data solutions in Guam and the CNMI will be combined with PTI's, which also provides CDMA and GSM cellular, long distance, data communications, as well as fixed line services to the residents of the CNMI.

PTI provides data communications and long distance services in Guam and publishes The CNMI Phone Book™ and The Guam Phone Book™. PTI was recently chosen to provide directory assistance services to Hawaiian Telcom customers and will soon be opening a locally-staffed call center on Saipan.

PTI said it is committed to providing a level of customer service that will exceed customer expectations. "From the onset, our group has seen the total commitment of PTI resources to make our customers the No. 1 priority and we are very excited about being a part of the IT&E team as we move forward," said Lynette Makio, IT&E Customer Service manager.

PTI is now the largest telecommunications company in the Marianas with over 75,000 total subscribers on four islands.

This past weekend, a change to PTI's cellular frequency was completed successfully. This was the first step in the \$10 million investment into IT&E's

infrastructure. The company will offer the latest technology and a wide range of products and services to its customers in Guam and the CNMI. Plans include a complete upgrade of the CDMA wireless platform in Guam, an expansion of the GSM platform in Guam, and the completion of a redundant microwave backbone throughout the Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

PTI was purchased from Verizon by Prospector Holdings Inc. of the Philippine-based Delgado family in September 2005. In 2006, Sumitomo Corp. invested \$25 million into PTI as a long-term strategic partner. Together both companies continue to work closely to expand PTI with a long term regional orientation in mind. (PTI)

PROCESS

From Page 1

regulations and begin setting up the organization and the staffing for its implementation.

The lawyer said there were two items of good news for the CNMI yesterday—the federalization and the Northwest Airlines' doubling of daily Tokyo flights.

Woodruff said the CNMI is also going to have a voice now in the U.S. Congress beginning January.

"I guess we can say that things are working in the CNMI's direction. But we've got a lot of work to do. We need to really address the issues right now of stabilizing the CNMI workforce...the

people that are here," he said.

The lawyer is sure that the emergency regulations for implementing the cap on the number of alien workers in the Commonwealth will come into effect immediately.

"We need to go through the process during the next year to 18 months as we move into the transition period. Everybody needs to prepare for the future. So it is just a matter of doing the work now. One step at a time and get it all done," Woodruff said.

Candle light vigil

Several organizations on the island will be leading a candle light vigil tonight, from 6pm to 9pm, to celebrate the federalization bill's passage. Assembly point will be at Garapan Fishing Base

across the Horiguchi Building.

Among the groups that will join are the Coalition of United Workers (NMI), Human Dignity Movement, PILCOWA, Bangladeshi community, Boholano Association, Mariana Island Amateur Radio Association, and Dekada.

"Everyone's invited to join the line from the Garapan Fishing Base going southward of Beach Road (pathway). Participants are encouraged to wear white shirt and to please bring a candle. This prayer vigil is part of Thanksgiving for the federalization and also for the provision it may give to our guest workers in the NMI," said Jerry Custodio, president of the Human Dignity Movement.

Status

For human rights advocate Wendy

Doromal, the next step is for long-term alien workers and parents of U.S. citizen children to be given status and protection during the transition period.

Doromal said she is going to Washington D.C. next week to deliver the petition of guest workers asking for green cards.

"I will also ask for immediate protection or amnesty. Today is a time for celebration, and as always, I am with the guest workers in spirit," she said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

Doromal said the law's passage is a monumental day for every advocate, every federal official, and every person who has fought to end labor and human rights abuses in the CNMI. "It is a day of celebration for all of the guest workers who call the CNMI home," she stressed.

managers informed on the immigration issue.

"We will work with it as best as we can. We will participate in any and all efforts with drafting the regulations if given the opportunity to do so," she said.

HANMI, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority and the CNMI Division of Immigration, has already begun meeting with their Guam counterparts to discuss the joint visa waiver program provided by the law. One of the group's main goals is to make sure the CNMI continues to receive tourists from China and Russia.

In the U.S. Congress, members who pushed for passage of the federalization measure welcomed the president's action.

West Virginia Rep. Nick J. Rahall, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which contains the CNMI immigration and delegate provisions "ushers in a new era for the people of the CNMI—one that promises closer cooperation and greater consultation among the territory, the federal government, and the U.S. Congress."

U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen said: "Today is a historic

BUSH

From Page 1

program, which will be in effect from June 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2014.

Between now and June next year, local labor and immigration laws still apply to the CNMI. The NMI Labor Department, however, has already issued emergency regulations that cap the number of alien workers in the CNMI at 22,417. This means that the CNMI government will not allow an increase in the total number of alien workers who are present in the CNMI, effective immediately.

The new law also calls for a November 2008 election for the CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial called the enactment of the federalization bill "the end of an era for the people and government" of the Commonwealth. He said that local immigration and labor controls helped transform the CNMI economy during the 1980s and 1990s, and raised the standard of living for local and foreign workers alike.

"I had hoped to continue using these economic tools to orchestrate an economic recovery for the CNMI, and

I deeply regret that recently passed legislation may impede our local government's ability to orchestrate an economic recovery based on sound economic incentives and competitive free market policies," said the governor.

He said he will continue to consult with the Legislature, the private sector, and other interested stakeholders about the government's options in dealing with federalization.

Pete A. Tenorio, the Commonwealth's resident representative to Washington, D.C., called on local leaders to forget any plan to derail the federal government's takeover of CNMI immigration.

Fitial in his State of the Commonwealth Address last week said that suing the U.S. government remained one of his options to stop federalization. The other two are to help draft the implementing regulations and to seek amendments to the new law.

"Let us stop the rhetoric and bury the hatchet. Let's just get to work, show a spirit of unity," Tenorio said.

Rep. Tina Sablan said she was relieved to hear "the good news. It is good to finally turn the page and open up a new chapter for the Commonwealth. We have before us an opportunity to reinvent ourselves, and we should seize

that opportunity."

Local businesses say they are ready to work with the federal and local governments in making sure the new system would have as little adverse impact as possible on the private sector.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now forming a committee of seven members to study the new immigration law and to draft business-friendly provisions for inclusion in the implementing regulations.

"The board [of the organization] desires that the business community of the Commonwealth, through the Chamber, be well represented in any discussions with federal officials regarding these regulations, and envisions that this committee will be the group that fills this role," Chamber president James T. Arenovski said in a letter to one of the members invited to be part of the committee.

"Although we do not yet know the extent to which the federal government will invite local participation in the regulation-drafting process, we believe that the local government will support our inclusion in negotiations whenever possible," he added.

Lynn Knight, the chairwoman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, said she is keeping hotel

victory for the many people of the CNMI who have been frustrated by the lack of representation in the U.S. Congress and the poor management of local immigration policy."

California Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee who has sought reform of the CNMI's labor and immigration laws for more than 15 years, said the federalization measure will end the "old way of doing business" that had led to the exploitation of foreign workers and had stifled the economy in the Northern Marianas.

Miller blasted jailed lobbyist Jack Abramoff for blocking federalization for many years.

"Although it was clear to nearly everyone that the CNMI's system was broken and unfair, it took a Democratic Congress to end this sordid chapter in American history. This new law responds to recommendations from the Bush Administration, the Clinton administration, the [Immigration and Naturalization Service], the Commission on Immigration Reform, human rights activists, and many others. This law will usher in a new, safer and more just era for the Northern Mariana Islands, and for the men and women who live and work there," Miller said.

Bush asked to fund Prior Service pensions

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Regional leaders are asking the U.S. government to fund a pension program for Micronesians who worked for the Trust Territory government before 1968.

The Micronesian chief executives in their recent summit in Palau wrote separate letters to President George W. Bush and Interior Secretary T.H. Dirk Kempthorne urging the officials to pay the federal government's "debt" to the Prior Service program.

A one-time appropriation of \$13 million is needed to contin-

ue the program for the next 40 years. On an annual basis, the program needs about \$850,000, exclusive of cost of living allowance, for the next five years, and a descending annual amount thereafter.

Without the funding, the program's beneficiaries will lose benefit allowances, which average about \$40 a month.

"These amounts appear insignificant in today's economic environment but for many of these individuals living in remote island locations, the monies provide for some basic food staples," the leaders told Kempthorne.

'With delegate, NMI will save \$1M a year'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth stands to save about \$1 million a year from having a delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The delegate bill, which President Bush signed into law yesterday, will shut down the office of the CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. The office has an annual budget of \$1 million.

The expenses of the Northern Marianas delegate's office will be shouldered by the federal government. The costs include the delegate's salary, currently at \$169,300 a year.

The U.S. government will also pay for the biennial elections for the delegate, to be held in even-numbered years. All CNMI elections now take place in odd-numbered years. A delegate election is expected to cost about \$25,000.



Tenorio

The first such election is scheduled for this November, to coincide with the U.S. presidential elections.

"The CNMI will definitely save a lot of money from the delegate bill," Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has said. "But of course, this is not about the money, it's about having a voice in the U.S. Congress. Right now, we are the only U.S. citizens not represented in Congress. When the delegate bill becomes law, we are going to be the last of U.S. citizens to be provided an opportunity to be heard."

The new law includes provisions to grant the Northern Marianas representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. It would also have Washington take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

Under the measure, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers

The Prior Service Program was established in 1968 to provide retirement, disability and survivor benefits to Micronesians, who were employed by the U.S. Department of Navy and the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands government from 1944 to 1968.

The program was funded by the U.S. government as part of the Department of the Interior appropriations earmarked for the operation of the TTPI government. The funding stopped when the Compacts of Free Association went into effect in 1986. The U.S.-CNMI Cov-

to the U.S. House of Representatives. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in the House.

The CNMI delegate will assume office on the third day of January after the election.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

The CNMI delegate will receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a member of the House of Representatives. Each member of Congress is paid almost \$170,000 a year.

Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

30-plus students to showcase violin talents

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

More than 30 students between the ages of four to 50 years old will showcase their talents in playing the violin next Saturday as part of the Do Re Mi School's culminating activity for the school year.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Do Re Mi Music School's Maestro Ao Zhang plays a classical piece inside his studio in China Town yesterday.

greats such as Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Wieniawski, Handel, and many more. The musical numbers will be led by Maestro Ao Zhang.

Do Re Mi was founded in April 1992. Zhang, the school director, said he has been teaching violin to students of all ages and ethnic

others," he said.

Zhang said some of his students are pursuing doctorate degrees in the mainland. He said one of his students won third place in one of the state championships and one recently won first place in the CNMI Little Big Star, also held in the Multi-Purpose Center early this year.

"Besides our grand recital, the students of Do Re Mi have given many benefit concerts for senior citizens, the hospital, the Flame Tree Arts Festival, Korean and Chinese Association events, as well as the Christmas Concert at the Supreme Court," Zhang said.

Tickets for this year's violin recital are being sold at the Eucon International School. Call the Do Re Mi School of Music at 233-7777.

There will be solo performances, duets, quartets and a group performance.

The violinists will be playing concerto and sonata masterpieces composed by classical

backgrounds for 19 years.

"I have spent a lifetime playing the violin and have been so fortunate to share my love for this beautiful instrument with

tenant was fully implemented in the same year.

The U.S. Congress then appropriated \$8 million to establish a trust fund to provide for benefit payments for the Prior Service program. At that time, it was noted that there might be

need for additional funding, as not all of the eligible beneficiaries had been certified.

The certification process was slow and tedious because all of supporting documents were maintained in paper files and, in many cases, multiple sources

had to be checked to confirm that the person was eligible.

The Prior Service beneficiaries, some of whom served as marine scouts with the U.S. military during the War in the Pacific, worked for very low wages without any benefits.

Judge: Failure to notify defendant of new charges is a ground for dismissal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A government's failure to provide notice to a defendant of the amended charges is ground for dismissal of the charges, according to Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama.

He said a verbal notice of an intent to amend charges is not sufficient to provide the defendant with notice.

"If the Commonwealth wishes to amend and prosecute additional charges then it must provide sufficient notice to defendant beforehand," said the judge in his order issued Tuesday involving a traffic case.

In that order Lizama dismissed the charge of driving without a license filed against Steven M. Tammy.

At trial court, he said, the government may only pursue the charges of operating a vehicle

without a license in the immediate possession and operating a vehicle without a seatbelt.

"The court is troubled that the Commonwealth would file notice to add charges to a complaint and neglect to provide the defendant with notice of the additional charges that will be brought against him," Lizama emphasized.

According to court records, Tammy was pulled over on Christmas Day in 2007. He was charged with driving a vehicle without a license and operating a vehicle without a seatbelt.

Tammy was ordered to appear in court on Jan. 31, 2008. At the time, he was only charged with driving a vehicle without a license. On Feb. 1, 2008 and without notice to Tammy, the government added a new charge of driving without a seatbelt.

Lizama granted this motion on Feb. 4, 2008 without a hearing.

Finally on Feb. 11, 2008 the government served Tammy with a copy of their motion to amend citation to add charges.

Tammy, through counsel assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, filed a motion to dismiss this charge. The government filed an opposition to the motion to dismiss.

Hartig alleged that the government also filed a proposed order on Tammy's motion to dismiss without notice to the defendant.

This order was signed by a different judge (not Lizama) and set the motion hearing for April 9, 2008 instead of March 31. On March 31, 2008, the motion to dismiss was argued before Lizama.

Lizama dismissed the government's charge of operating without a license. He also denied government's motion to reconsider the court's dismissal of the charge.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Medvedev's rule

Shortly after being sworn in as Russian president Wednesday, Dmitry Medvedev declared that "my most important task is to further develop civil and economic freedoms." Above all, said the 42-year-old former law professor, "we must achieve true respect for the law and end the legal nihilism that is seriously hindering modern development."

That was a remarkable statement under the circumstances. Medvedev, after all, owes his position to the "legal nihilism" of outgoing president Vladimir Putin, who grossly abused both the letter and the spirit of Russia's nominally democratic constitution to install a handpicked successor. Putin, who takes over the post of prime minister, accumulated a fortune estimated in the tens of billions while serving two terms as president. In recent weeks he has been twisting the law again to ensure that he will remain Russia's most potent leader.

Chances are that Medvedev's statement was no more creditable than Putin's own claim that the presidential transition was carried out "on the basis of strict observance of the laws and the principles of democracy." Still, it's not yet clear what the relationship between the new and old Russian presidents will be — whether Medvedev will remain a puppet of Putin, or begin to assert his own agenda. For that reason, it's worth Western governments taking Medvedev at his word about his legalistic passion — and suggesting some ways he might act on it.

To begin, Medvedev could be asked for action on the 14 unsolved murders of journalists during Putin's tenure — such as that of Anna Politkovskaya, in whose case suspects have been identified but never tried. Britain should invite the new president to cooperate in pressing Scotland Yard's charges against a former KGB agent in the assassination of a Putin critic in London.

If that's too hard, Medvedev at least could end the use of the law as a weapon against opposition leaders, independent civic organizations and human rights groups — not to mention Russian and foreign businesses whose assets are coveted by the Kremlin and its friends. Tax and environmental inspectors repeatedly found ways in the Putin years to shut down offices or force sales on concessionary terms; several intellectuals who criticized the government were imprisoned on bogus espionage charges. Russia's most successful business executive of the 1990s, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, still languishes in a Siberian prison long after his Yukos oil company was confiscated.

Above all, President Bush and other NATO leaders should ask Medvedev to begin respecting international law. In Putin's last months in the presidency, Russia repeatedly violated the sovereignty of its southern neighbor, Georgia, granting recognition to illegal separatist regimes in two of its provinces and dispatching troops to one of them in what has become a dangerous game of brinkmanship. As Medvedev takes office, Russia is veering toward open confrontation with the West and an entrenched autocracy at home. A shift toward respect for the law would be welcome, indeed.

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MYANMAR'S
MILITARY
GOVERNMENT
ACCEPTS
INTERNATIONAL
DISASTER RELIEF...



Unjust debt wrings life from poor nations

In April, the U.S. House of Representatives showed leadership in the fight against global poverty by passing the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008, which would extend lifesaving debt cancellation to more poor nations around the globe.

Too many of the world's poor children needlessly starve or go without education because too many impoverished nations -- even after the laudable debt relief provided to date -- are still funneling scarce resources to multilateral banks instead of paying for needs at home.

The world community has found crushing debt to be akin to a modern-day apartheid, and has responded with debt cancellation. Unjust debt leaves developing nations at the behest of the powerful. Shall we let the children of Africa and Asia die of curable disease, prevent them from going to school and limit their opportunities for meaningful work -- all to pay off unjust and illegitimate loans made to their forefathers?

When I think of the crisis of international debt, I think of my African neighbor, Lesotho. Many of Lesotho's people cannot afford basic nourishment. The AIDS epidemic has plagued the nation, but needed medicine is out of reach for too many.

Lesotho's situation shows how debt and extreme poverty create a crisis for children. Children's wards in that nation's hospitals are filled with anxious mothers 24 hours a day, administering medicine and caring for their children as a nurse or doctor might do in my country of South Africa. They have no choice. Lesotho has only six pediatricians looking after its 800,000 children.

One-third of Lesotho's children are not in school. Meanwhile, Lesotho's debt repayments equal its entire education budget. Instead of investing in its people, health and development, Lesotho -- a nation of 2 million people with external debt of \$647 million -- sends debt payments to the developed world.

Millions of the world's poorest people suffer hunger and illness as desperately needed resources flow out of their countries in the form of debt payments. Yet many countries, like Lesotho, are not eligible for debt relief because current initiatives are not based on a country's level of poverty or need.

By DESMOND TUTU

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Tutu is archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa.



country's level of poverty or need.

Much of this debt originates from loans made to corrupt and oppressive regimes that did not benefit the population. As a South African, I know firsthand the injustice of this situation as our country continues to repay money that was used to sustain the apartheid system and suppress the movement for racial justice.

The Jubilee Act calls for an audit of the odious debts of countries such as South Africa so that the question of whether this money is truly "owed" can finally be addressed.

The movement to cancel debt is an ongoing moral campaign that joins religious leaders around the globe under the biblical principle of Jubilee, which says that everything belongs to God.

My own Anglican communion has long supported debt relief, calling the continued burden of debt upon the poorest people of the world "a moral scandal."

Christian evangelical organizations, including Baptist World Alliance and the Salvation Army, have called on President Bush to support the Jubilee Act. Pope Benedict XVI, who made his first visit to the United States in April as Congress voted on the Jubilee Act, has called for debt cancellation for the poorest countries to be "continued and accelerated."

As the Senate now considers the Jubilee Act, it can do its part to help ensure that Africans and Asians are able to use their own resources for their own development. When success comes on expanded debt cancellation, as it did with an end to apartheid, this victory will not be ours alone but will belong to the whole world.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Enough is enough!

Last night was the last straw for me—enough is enough! My family and I have been trying to conserve power ever since the first power hike on July 22, 2006. We have been reading the meter twice a day so that we know how much we are using. We've turned off all air-cons except for the one in the kids' room at night and even went as far as unplugging appliances. My wife and I sleep with the fan, which was okay during the winter months because of the cooler air but now as the nights get hotter, it is starting to get uncomfortable. Last night, we put the kids to bed and was lying down to sleep when all of sudden, blackout. Here we go again, another rolling blackout. So for the next two and a half hours we were sweating and tossing and turning because it is sooooo hot. Our kids have school the next day and we have work. How will the kids get enough rest so that they can be rested and be able to learn in school? Our kids cannot learn if they are sleepy in class. So I told myself that I would write a letter to the editor to express my thoughts. So here it is.

With the recent new power hike by CUC management, I am curious to ask where they came up with these rates. Are they trying to make up for what they said they lost from the previous power rates or is this the actual cost of producing power now? If it is the actual cost, where are their justifications? CUC management says that the cost of oil is the reason for this rate but are they telling us the truth? If the cost of oil is the reason for these new rates then show us the figures. Back when the barrel of oil was little over \$100 and before the Legislature made it \$0.17 per kWh, the power rate was set. Now the barrel of oil is over \$123, does the rate change reflect that increase or is the current rate more than what it should be? After all the excuses CUC management have given its customers over the past years, it's hard to believe them. Remember when the rates were first implemented, they said that it was the oil price then when the oil price went down, they said that the reason for the delay in reducing the rates

‘Our work is not done’

President Bush has signed S. 2739 into law!

This is a significant victory for every advocate, every federal official, and every person who has fought to end labor and human rights abuses in the CNMI. It is a momentous victory for the guest workers in the CNMI. It is a personal victory for me, and for my family.

As an advocate who has worked on passing this legislation for almost 2 decades, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the U.S Congress, especially to the members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources, and their dedicated staff members. They devoted hundreds of hours of hard work, untiring perseverance, and self-less determination to see this issue resolved.

Some members of Congress and staff members including Congressman George Miller (D-CA), Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), and Allen Stayman have pushed for effective reform for over a decade in a fight that has been difficult and fraught with obstacles. Some of the strongest proponents of this legislation have been personally vilified, attacked, libeled, and have even lost jobs because of their conviction and determination to extend just and democratic laws to the CNMI. Yet, they stood their ground and continued the battle. The late Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI) fought vehemently for immigration and labor reform in the CNMI. She is the one member of Congress who answered every e-mail, and replied to every letter that I sent to her with a handwritten personal note.

Surviving the tougher times

Imagine this: Our budget for CUC is double starting this month. And then there is a speculation that the price of gas will reach \$5 per gallon by the end of June, not to mention that the current price is already way above the minimum wage. Prices of food and other basic commodities have gone up as well. Almost all government fees have also increased. This is the dilemma that everyone is facing. Since last year, we stopped using the a/c and the water heater in our house, no more going to the restaurants and no more shopping for anything unless it is really necessary. I'm even tempted to buy a bicycle to use going to work just so I can save on gas! But what else can we do to

make ends meet? And how bad can it still get?

I hope that when the government is coming up with solutions, they would remember that their people are already down to the ground. There might be other solutions other than passing the burden to the people. I hope we are objective in realizing that we badly need help and I hope the government will be willing to listen to people who are offering solutions. Perhaps we can still do something.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

was because it's the government and we need to understand that the government is slow to react sometimes but they are very fast to react and raise the rates.

Another thing, when the rates were first raised, they did it during the billing cycle and overcharged customers because they prorated your usage by taking the total amount used in that billing cycle and dividing it by the number of days in the billing cycle then multiplying by the number of days for the old rate and number of days for the new rate and add the two together and that was your total bill. The flaw in this system was that if you as a customer were using a lot during the time when the rates were lower and then conserved when the rates went up, you as the customer would lose. For example, let's say that you used 400 kWh during the lower rate and used 200 kWh during the higher rate. That gives you a total of 600 kWh for the month. For the sake of argument, let's say that the billing cycle is 30 days and the lower cost was \$0.20 per kWh and the higher cost was \$0.30 per kWh. If you calculate it the CUC management's way, you pay \$60 (600 kWh divided by 30 days equal 20 kWh per day times \$0.20 per kWh equals 4 kWh per day times 15 days equals \$60) for the lower rate and \$90 (600 kWh divided by 30 days equals 20 kWh per day times \$0.30 per kWh equals 6 kWh per day times 15 days equals \$90) for the higher rate. Your total monthly bill would be \$150. But if you actually used 400 kWh for the lower rate and 200 kWh for the higher rate then your bill should be \$80 (400 kWh times \$0.20 equals \$80) for the lower rate and \$60 (200 kWh times \$0.30 equals \$60) for the higher rate and your total monthly bill should be \$140. That means that CUC management overcharged you by \$10.

For all those people who decided to conserve by turning off air-cons, water heaters, unplugging unused appliances and implementing other conservation ways, you ended up paying CUC management more than you actually used. They cheated you be-

cause they never went out to every meter and read it so that you will be charged for exactly what you used for the rate it was to be. Now, is CUC management going to use this same system in calculating our next bill? If so, go and read your meter today and conserve and dispute their calculation because I know that they didn't read every single meter on the island when the new higher rates went into effect. Why the different rates for the different power usage? That's like going to the gas station and they charge us \$4.50 per gallon for putting 2 gallons of gas but they charge us \$5 per gallon for putting 5 gallons of gas. Can CUC management justify that? Does it actually cost more to produce 500 kWh than 1,000 kWh? If so, prove it, not by telling us but by showing us. Give us the numbers, that shouldn't be that difficult, right? Because CUC management must have had done some calculation before coming up with new rates or did they say, "Let's take what we lost in the past months and calculate what we need to charge to make up the difference." And don't give us a bunch of baloney because we the customer are more intelligent than the CUC management think we are.

Lastly, this goes to the CUC executive director for his comments in the newspaper: "The new rates might come as a shock for residential customers, but the only solution to it for now is some modification to their lifestyle." How much modifying do you want us to do? Turn off all lights and invite the thieves and burglars? Unplug all appliances, even our refrigerators and let our food spoil? Sleep outside and be attacked by the mosquitoes? Don't have our kids use the computer to do their homework so their grades will suffer? Have our kids do their homework by candle light so their eyesight will get worse? Some of us are trying to conserve and a statement like that shows what you are thinking: Everyone must be wasting energy.

Chong Won
Kagman III, Saipan

Thank you also to Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), CNMI Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio, Congressman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), Congresswoman Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI), Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), and Congressional staffers Tony Babauta, Brian Modeste, Josh Johnson, Ben Miller, Marie Howard, and Rich Stanton.

There are advocates and human rights organizations who helped to educate the public and officials on this issue, and who have worked to get this bill passed who should be thanked and applauded. Dennis Greenia, who some know as dengre from the Daily Kos, is a dear friend and fellow advocate. He never saw the faces of the guest workers, yet he educated thousands of Americans of their plight and disenfranchisement through his posts on the Daily Kos. He spent hundreds of hours working with me, communicating with members of Congress, and assisting the guest workers through his writing and efforts to get other human rights groups including Co-op America on board to assist.

Committed clergy and staff from The Sisters of the Good Shepherds, Guma Esperansa, and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa have worked tirelessly to assist victims of human trafficking, have educated the public on the human trafficking problem in the CNMI, and have worked for solutions.

Since the 1990's others have worked to institute meaningful reform in the CNMI - Dr. Eddie del Rosario, David Cohen, Danny Aranza, Phil Kaplan, Jess Varela, Global Survival Network, Sweatshop Watch, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Aloha Medi-

cal Mission, Filipino Community of Guam, Federation of Asian People of Guam, and dozens of friends and employees from the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Interior, and other federal agencies. Not to mention, the numerous CNMI workers' groups, attorneys, and residents who supported and fought for federalization. Most importantly, the guest workers, themselves who over the last couple years found their voices!

Our work is not done. We still need to address the issue of federal permanent status for the long-term guest workers. Now that the bill is signed, I will be carrying the petition from the guest workers to Washington, D.C. that requests green card status for the legal CNMI long-term guest workers. The guest workers have gotten over 5,000 signatures and are still working to get more.

We have to work to monitor the progress on setting policies to ensure that they are in the best interest of every person who calls the CNMI their home. Everyone deserves to have a seat at the table in negotiations, including representatives and advocates of the guest worker community.

It is time for the CNMI government to work in unity with the federal government to set the CNMI on a path towards prosperity; to work to unify all of the people who call the CNMI home.

Best wishes to all of the guest workers and their families on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian! I am with you in spirit today as you celebrate this victory in unity!

Wendy Doromal
via e-mail

United we stand

I am enlightened to learn that Rep. Tina Sablan and some of her colleagues at the Legislature—Representatives Heinz Hofschneider, Edward Salas, and Victor Hocog—are pushing for a solution to the problem of equality and freedom for the alien contract workers of the CNMI. United we stand and united we will conquer, and in harmony we may live. I hope to see you all at the next Unity March.

Chris Pombie Santos
Portland State University
Portland, Oregon

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am

Sunday: 7am

Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm

Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45pm (English)

Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Sunday: 6:45am (English)

Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Kobberville

Sunday Services 9:00 AM

Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158

Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal

8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 10, 1999

NMIRF to sell assets

Worried over its depleting cash resources, the Retirement Fund will sell portion of its multimillion-dollar investments to raise at least \$5 million to ensure prompt payment of pension to more than 1,000 retirees on the island. The move stemmed from the delay in payment of government contributions, which has drained the cash on hand of the NMI Retirement Fund.

DOLI gets another lashing

Responding to complaints from the business sector, the chair of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee has vowed to meet with officials of the Department of Labor and Immigration in an attempt to work out a solution to problems facing companies in the islands. "This is an administrative nightmare," said Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, referring to the dissatisfaction by the private sector over DOLI's performance in recent months.

Salient points of draft takeover proposal

Recently President Bill Clinton's special representative to the 902 talks, Edward B. Cohen, presented to the CNMI a draft federal takeover proposal which the White House intends to submit to the US Congress for consideration. Proposed to be called the "Northern Mariana Islands Labor and Immigration Reform Act", the draft seeks to extend to the Commonwealth federal immigration, minimum wage and customs laws.

May 10, 2000

House tackles abortion

The House of Representatives is likely to revive debate on abortion soon as members yesterday held a closed-door meeting at the chamber to discuss the issue. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial declined to comment when asked by reporters after the 30-minute meeting which was held during a break on the session. "Our decision is not to disclose," he said.

Hotels raise concerns on local agri yields

In fresh efforts to facilitate the growth of the local agricultural sector, the Commonwealth Development Authority is laying the ground work for a business agreement with major hotel and restaurant owners on the island. CDA officials, acting on behalf of local farmers, are initiating a discussion for a possible partnership with hotel and restaurant owners and operators, wherein they will be asked to patronize CNMI's agricultural produce over imported food items.

Mayor seeks Japan's assistance to improve Rota harbor

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has sought the assistance of the Japanese government, in a desperate attempt to fast-track the rehabilitation of the island's dilapidated harbor. Mr. Manglona wrote Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori seeking assistance from the Japanese government for the much needed improvement of the island's sea transport facility.

May 10, 2001

Report accurate campaign funds'

Stiffer penalties will be meted out against party candidates and treasurers who will falsely report campaign donations and expenditures during and after the election period. Under the amended version of the Election Law, violators will be required to pay up to \$50,000 and serve a year-long jail-term. The changes will be strictly implemented to prevent candidates from amassing fortunes while the election campaign is ongoing.

DPH reveals alarming rate of diabetes cases

One of every four Chamorros and Carolinians over 40 years old has diabetes. In addition, a report released by the Department of Public Health revealed that more than 10.5 percent of the islands' Chamorro and Carolinian population are diabetics.

CUC blames Garapan customers for high volume of squandered water

A day after admitting that human error caused dry taps in one of Saipan's most populated areas, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday revealed that Garapan residents are also the most abusive when it comes to water use. CUC Special Advisor for Corporate Affairs Pamela A. Mathis said that of the 3.3 million gallons of water squandered on the island each day, majority is wasted in the households and business establishments located in Garapan.

Business

Gas jumps nearly 3 cents to record; oil crosses \$124

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline and crude oil jumped to new records Thursday, with gas rising 3 cents to an average national price of nearly \$3.65 a gallon and oil crossing \$124 a barrel for the first time.

"If oil prices go the way that pundits are expecting, there's no way we'll stay under \$4 a gallon," said Fadel Gheit, an analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. in New York.

Meanwhile, light, sweet crude for June delivery rose 16 cents to reach a settlement record of \$123.69 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange Thursday after spending much of the day in negative territory. But in after-market electronic trading, prices shot to a new trading record of \$124.61. Analysts said volume was quite low, making it easy for oil to keep pushing higher.

Top 3 air carriers boost fuel charge

NEW YORK (AP)—The three biggest U.S. carriers said Thursday they have again raised ticket prices, this time by \$20 roundtrip, to recoup rapidly rising fuel costs.

The increases by American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines affect the carriers' fuel surcharges, which now total \$130 roundtrip on many flights. That means passengers on some cheap flights could be paying more in fees and taxes than for the airfare itself.

Delta Air Lines Inc. initiated the increase, which applies to most domestic routes. It is the Atlanta-based carrier's second hike in just over a week. The increases by American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines affect the carriers' fuel surcharges, which now total \$130 roundtrip on many flights. That means passengers on some cheap flights could be paying more in fees and taxes than for the airfare itself.

Airlines have been racing to raise airfares, tack on surcharges, and charge for amenities such as extra bags and legroom as they struggle to cope with soaring energy prices. Many airlines now count fuel as their biggest cost.

Stocks rise modestly even as oil extends record run

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street closed a quiet session with a moderate advance Thursday, with energy and other commodities companies leading the market as oil prices extended their record-breaking run.

Stocks also rose after retailers issued April sales results that, while not strong overall, were less gloomy than expected. The data suggested that high energy costs are leading consumers to alter their spending, and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. was one of the beneficiaries of that trend. But some apparel stores—whose merchandise falls into the category of discretionary items—again saw depressed sales as consumers budgeted more for gasoline and food.

Although the rising price of oil ignited concerns about inflation on Wednesday, knocking the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 200 points, stocks managed to hold on to their gains even as oil rose Thursday. Some of

Nation

'Best Santa ever' is arrested in N.J. on child sex charges

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A rare international alert seeking a man shown in dozens of raw child porn images quickly led to the arrest of a small-time actor, who painted faces at children's parties and performed as "the best Santa Claus anyone has ever seen."

Wayne Nelson Corliss told authorities he had sex with three boys in Thailand six years ago, an experience he described as "euphoria," a prosecutor said Thursday at Corliss' first court appearance.

The arrest of the bespectacled, gray-haired 58-year-old at

his Union City apartment late Wednesday capped a two-day global manhunt, just the second time Interpol has sought the public's help in tracking down a suspected pedophile. He is believed to have sexually abused at least three boys thought to have been 6 to 10 years old, according to the international police agency.

Corliss is charged with producing child pornography and could face 10 to 20 years in federal prison if convicted, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark.

At Thursday's hearing, As-

sistant U.S. Attorney Lee Vartan said Corliss told the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who arrested him that he had sex with three boys over three nights in Thailand in 2002. "He described it as 'euphoria' to the agents," Vartan said.

Texas sinkhole's appetite lessons

DAISETTA, Texas (AP)—Geologists said a 260-foot-deep sinkhole that grew to the length of three football fields over just two days seemed to be slowing down Thursday, but that it could take months before it's clear whether surrounding areas are stable.

The 900-foot-long sinkhole, with crumbling dirt around its edges resembling sharp teeth, has swallowed up oil tanks and barrels, tires, telephone poles and several vehicles in Daisetta, a once-booming oil town of about 1,000 residents about 60 miles northeast of Houston.

Residents feared the appetite of the sinkhole, which began as a 20-foot hole in the ground on Wednesday, would continue unabated Thursday and threaten nearby homes. But by Thursday afternoon officials and geologists allayed those concerns.

Obama gets big welcome, fresh support on Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Barack Obama got a frontrunner's welcome back at the Capitol Thursday, pressing congressional "superdelegates" to support him in a visit that had the look and feel of a campaign victory lap.

On the House floor, he was quickly surrounded by well-wishers calling him, "Mr. President" and reaching out to pat him on the back or shake his hand. The glad-handers included a few Republicans and supporters of his Democratic presidential rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

ACROSS THE NATION

Lack of water cited in deaths of 9 S.C. firefighters

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A federal report on a furniture store blaze that killed nine Charleston firefighters almost a year ago says crews responding never had enough water. The draft report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health released late Thursday says firefighters had too few hoses and not enough water volume. The draft is one of several federal and city reports being issued on the fatal blaze and it sheds more light on the confusion that enveloped the Sofa Super Store on June 18 as the inferno spread. The report includes details of what happened to the firefighters. Two of them found a pair of comrades in the smoke-filled showroom but lost contact as gases and combustible materials in the furniture store erupted in flames that filled the building.

Judge sentences former Alaska lawmaker in bribery case

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A former Alaska legislator convicted of taking bribes to push legislation for a major natural gas pipeline was sentenced Thursday to 3 1/2 years in federal prison. Former state Rep. Vic Kohring continued to proclaim his innocence and read a statement in court repeating his claim that the judge should have removed himself from the case. Kohring was convicted in November of accepting at least \$2,600 from executives of an influential Alaska company that provided engineering, construction and facility maintenance services to oil producers.

More than half of US diabetics have arthritis

ATLANTA (AP)—More than half of U.S. adults with diabetes also have arthritis, raising a serious obstacle for diabetic patients urged to exercise, according to a government study. The survey of nearly 800,000 people is the first extensive look at the overlap between the two conditions, said Dr. John Klippel, president of the Arthritis Foundation. And its findings highlight a significant challenge: Most diabetics are told exercise is important to their health, but experts say many of them don't do it. People with diabetes who exercise have better control of their blood sugar and a much lower risk of heart disease complications.

2 murder convictions for suspect in Michigan serial killings

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—A man suspected of killing several women in this city over several terrifying weeks was convicted Thursday of two of the slayings and of attacking a third woman who survived. Matthew Macon's eyes filled with tears as the verdicts were read. He put his hands over his head as Ingham County Circuit Court Judge William Collette set the sentencing date for June 18. Macon will be sentenced to life without parole for murdering Sandra Eichorn, 64, and 41-year-old Karen Delgado-Yates. He also was found guilty of torturing Delgado-Yates and of assaulting Linda Chapel Jackson, 56, with intent to commit murder.

Asia

1st big foreign aid flights finally let in

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military regime allowed in the first major international aid shipment Thursday, but it snubbed a U.S. offer to help cyclone victims struggling to recover from a tragedy of unimaginable scale.

Five days after the storm, the junta continued to stall on visas for U.N. teams and other foreign aid workers anxious to deliver food, water and medicine to survivors amid fears the death toll could hit 100,000.

Among those stranded in Thailand were 10 members of the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team. Air Force transport planes and helicopters packed with supplies also sat waiting for a greenlight.

"We are in a long line of nations who are ready, willing and able to help, but also, of course, in a long line of nations the Burmese don't trust," U.S. Ambassador Eric John told reporters in Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

"It's more than frustrating. It's a tragedy," he said. Each day of delay means "a lot more people suffering," he said.

Myanmar's isolationist regime issued an appeal for international assistance after winds of 120 mph and a storm surge up to 15 feet high pounded the Irrawaddy delta Saturday.

But the junta has been accused of dragging its feet despite emerging reports on entire villages submerged, bodies floating in salty water and children

ripped from their parents arms.

"My children were crying all night. There is not enough food. There will be no food this evening," said Daw Thay, who took refuge in a monastery with her three children and her 99-year-old mother in a town 60 miles south of Yangon, the country's biggest city.

Daw Thay, 42, said monks were going without food so others could eat.

"We share what we have but there isn't enough. So they (the monks) give the food to the children and the old people first," she said.

In the swampy delta, a horrible stench rose from corpses and dead animals, bloated and floating in the water. Someone had written on a black asphalt road in Kongyangon village: "We are all in trouble. Please come help us." A few feet away, the desperate plea, "We're hungry."



AP

Myanmar monks remove a roof at a temple damaged by Cyclone Nargis on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar, Thursday May 8, 2008.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korea bans US pedophiles from entering country

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has banned 21 Americans convicted of sex crimes against children from entering the country. South Korea's Justice Ministry says it took the measure after U.S. authorities provided a list of convicted pedophiles who have a high probability of travel to Asia. A statement Thursday said it is the first time South Korea has imposed an entry ban on foreign pedophiles. The ministry says the measure is aimed at protecting Korean youths from sexual violence involving foreigners. It said some American pedophiles have worked as English teachers in South Korea.

Suicide bomber in car blows self up, hurts 3 in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up close to a convoy of foreign troops in Kabul on Thursday, but instead wounded three civilians, officials said. The bomber in a white Toyota Corolla vehicle died in the blast, which happened in the capital's western outskirts shortly after a convoy carrying foreign troops passed by, said a regional police chief Zulmay Khan. Three civilians, including a woman and two men, were wounded in the blast, he said. There were no reports of casualties among those in the convoy. Last year, militants launched over 140 suicide missions. Most

victims in these attacks have been civilians.

Sri Lanka rescinds move to bar foreign media for elections

VALAICHCHENAI, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Sri Lankan government said Thursday it was barring foreign journalists from covering weekend elections in the Eastern Province, but backed off hours later following a wave of protests by journalists and rights groups. The election pits a coalition of the ruling party and former rebels against opposition parties in a region the government said it had freed from the control of Tamil Tiger rebels last year. Opposition officials and rights groups say the former rebels are terrorizing voters and opponents and accuse the ruling party of using state resources to ensure its victory Saturday.

China lauds Chinese orchestra performance at Vatican

BEIJING (AP)—China said Thursday that a landmark performance by the China Philharmonic Orchestra at the Vatican will help improve understanding between the two sides. China is ready to improve relations with the Holy See and music is the "bridge of communication," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said at a news conference Thursday. The 75-member orchestra performed for Pope Benedict XVI on Wednesday. "We believe this activity will strengthen our mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples," Qin said.

World

Beirut clashes boil into running gunbattles

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Running gunbattles raged in parts of Beirut on Thursday after the leader of Hezbollah accused Lebanon's Western-backed government of declaring war on his Shiite militant group. At least four people were killed and eight wounded in the capital.

In a grim reminder of Lebanon's devastating 1975-90 civil war, factions threw up roadblocks and checkpoints dividing Beirut into sectarian enclaves on the second day of clashes between Sunni Muslims loyal to the government and Shiite supporters of Hezbollah.

A top Sunni leader went on television urging Hezbollah to pull its fighters back and "save Lebanon from hell." The army, which has stayed out of the sectarian political squabbling that has paralyzed the country for more than a year, did not intervene in the battles.

The chattering of automatic

weapons and thumps of exploding rocket-propelled grenades echoed across Beirut into the night. People huddled in hallways and stairwells as gunmen rushed from one street corner to the next firing at their foes. Some families fled to neighborhoods that remained quiet.

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida in Iraq leader reported arrested

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi police commandos captured the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq in a raid in the northern city of Mosul, Iraqi officials said Thursday, in what could mark a significant blow to the Sunni insurgency in its last urban stronghold. Iraqi Defense Ministry Spokesman Mohammed al-Askari said the arrest of Abu Ayyub al-Masri—also known as Abu Hamza al-Muhajir—was reported by the Iraqi commander in Mosul, where insurgents have sought to establish a foothold after being widely uprooted from Baghdad and surrounding areas last year. The U.S. military in Baghdad said it was "checking with Iraqi authorities to confirm the accuracy of this information."

Manta ray released from Bahamas resort

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) manta ray was returned to the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday after three years as a research subject and tourist attraction at a Bahamian resort. The massive black ray, known as "Zeus," was lowered from a helicopter

on a hydraulically welded frame to ensure its safe entry into the water. It spans nearly 13 feet (4 meters) in diameter—including a 3-foot (1 meter) mouth. Marine biologists had studied the creature and will now use a satellite tracking tag to monitor its movements in the open sea. Relocating the ray from its 2.7 million-gallon (10.2 million-liter) aquarium took more than two hours, according to a statement issued by the Atlantis resort on Paradise Island.

Chavez: Venezuela won't tolerate secession in Bolivia

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez says Venezuela will not tolerate a movement for secession in Bolivia's eastern lowland states. Chavez says his government has not meddled in the domestic affairs of other Latin American nations, but would if Bolivian states now seeking greater autonomy from Bolivia's central government push for total independence. He did not say Thursday what specifically Venezuela would do.

Israeli PM denies taking illicit donations from American

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert denied fresh accusations that he illegally accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars from a U.S. citizen, but said Thursday night that he will step down if he is indicted. The latest investigation into corruption allegations involving Olmert has distracted Israel for nearly a week and has the potential to derail delicate peace talks with the Palestinians. Olmert made his statement in a nationally televised speech from his official residence after a court lifted a gag order in the case. According to police suspicions, Olmert took hundreds of thousands

of dollars in illicit contributions from Jewish businessman Morris "Moshe" Talansky.

Israel celebrates its 60th birthday

JERUSALEM (AP)—A clash between Arab protesters and police, and a paratrooper's crash-landing during a ceremonial jump marred Israel's 60th independence day festivities Thursday.

The paratrooper and two bystanders were seriously hurt when he missed his target on a Tel Aviv beach and slammed into a crowd of spectators. Several others were slightly hurt.

Later, 11 police and protesters were injured during a march by Israeli Arabs marking the flip side of independence day for Arabs—the "nakba," or "catastrophe," when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were uprooted in the 1948 war over Israel's creation.

The march highlighted the tensions between Israel's Jewish majority and Arab minority.

Across the country, Israelis held barbecues in backyards and public parks, and were entertained by a naval parade and a Bible quiz.



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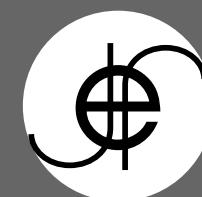
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Maharlika – PinoyNews

OFWs forming political party for 2010

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Overseas Filipinos are forming a national political party in preparation for the 2010 elections and beyond, it was revealed at the Global Filipino Nation (GFN) conference Friday.

Francisco "Jun" Aguilar, in-

terim chairman of the Partido ng Pandaigdigang Pilipino (PPP or Party of the Global Filipino), said the party is in the process of complying with the requirements of the Commission on Elections.

"This is not a party-list group but a national political party at par with the LDP (Laban ng Demokritong Pilipino or Fight of the Democratic Filipino) or

Australia, and New Zealand.

He added that they are in the process of organizing its regional, provincial, and municipal headquarters.

Alex Bello, PPP-Riyadh president, said the Absentee Voting Law has opened the door for the participation of overseas Filipinos in good governance, particularly in politics.

FMI gets Earth Team Volunteer award

Marites Aquino Castillo, president/chairwoman of the volunteer group known as Friends of the Mariana Islands (FMI), and Angelo O'Connor Villagomez were recently presented the Earth Team Volunteer Award and Certificates for their environmental efforts.

Castillo received two awards, one for herself and the other one for the FMI Group's activities.

Villagomez's genius is as a grass roots organizer, while Castillo's Group, the FMI, provided the muscle and backbone for the Earth Team Volunteer activities with over 6,000 volunteer hours so far in 2008.

Castillo and the FMI Group performed miracles by volunteering to clean up the roads and beaches of Saipan. Their goal is to maintain the environment for the benefit of everyone in the CNMI. Their motto is: "Do



Angelo O. Villagomez and Marites Aquino Castillo, FMI president/chairwoman, hold their certificates in front of the Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council's office on Beach Road on the Island of Saipan. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Friends of the Mariana Islands (FMI Group), together with Kinpache group, are pictured in the parking lot of the American Memorial Park. FMI president/chairwoman Marites A. Castillo led the monthly cleanup Saturday, May 3, at the Garapan Tourist District. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



Workers push for higher wages amid food crisis

By MYNARDO MACARAIG
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Workers such as Manila office messenger Arthur Manibale who earns just P362.00 (\$8.64) a day says he is just keeping his head above water financially.

He no longer buys new clothes, is sometimes forced to borrow from friends, and has largely given up eating meat because he can no longer afford it.

If it does so the government knows it will contribute to inflation, which in March stood at a 20-month high at 6.4 percent, and

must always have rice. I can save on other things," he says.

The rising price of food—especially rice, for which the cheapest variety has gone up to P33.00 (78 cents) a kilogram (2.2 pounds) from P25.00 two months ago—has made things harder for workers like Manibale and has forced the government to consider increasing the minimum wage to ease the pain.

"That is my top priority. I

will bring down growth just when the Philippine economy was showing signs of improving.

The sight of long lines of people waiting for hours to buy subsidized rice has exposed the economy's vulnerabilities, despite growth of 7.3 percent last year, the highest in three decades.

"There are business sectors that are having difficulty. And if the workers ask for additional wages, they (businesses) could collapse and the workers will be the ones to suffer," said Ciriaco Lag-

unsad, executive director of the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

Even conservative businessmen acknowledge the need for pay increases in the face of rising fuel, rice and flour prices. But they are against a legislated wage hike that would force them to raise salaries across the board.

Unions are demanding salary increases but are also aware that the resulting inflation could erase whatever gains higher wages might bring.

EXCHANGE RATES	
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LABOR FRONT

Deductions from wages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What is the maximum amount that an employer may deduct from an employee's wages?

A: According to the new Employment Rules and Regulations, each expense of the employer to be deducted from the wages of a foreign national worker shall be specified in the approved employment contract. The total deductions shall not exceed 30 percent of a worker's bi-weekly wages or the maximum permitted under the Fair Labor Standards Act, whichever is less.

Q: What are the permitted deductions from the wages of alien workers?

A: The only permitted deductions are for medical insurance premiums; employer-supplied housing; employer-supplied food, transportation and other purposes; under court or administrative order; and loans and advances.

Q: How much can an employer that provides housing deduct from a foreign national employee's wages?

A: The new Employment Rules and Regulations state that an employer providing housing for an alien worker may deduct from the wages of the worker who earns the minimum wage no more than \$100 per month for the cost of housing. The deduction for a foreign national worker who earns more than the minimum wage shall not exceed the fair market value of the housing supplied.

Non-business employers may deduct up to \$100 per month for housing and up to \$100 per month for food, local transportation, and all other benefits without regard to the 30 percent limitation.

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Congress probes Meralco

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

power producers (IPPs).

Santiago chairs the Powercom with the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, who also announced Wednesday that the House energy committee, which he heads, had scheduled its own hearing on Tuesday on Meralco's exorbitant rates.

Santiago said that the Powercom would investigate claims that Meralco's rates were high because it was buying power from the Lopez IPPs.

"It might be a violation of the penal provisions against antitrust. The antitrust provisions are found in the provision against restraints or monopoly," Santiago said.

Piston pushing through with transport strike

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The leftist transport group Piston (Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng

Tsuper at Operator Nationwide or United Organizations of Drivers and Operators Nationwide) is pushing through with a nationwide strike on Monday, its national president announced Friday.

The transport strike comes amid continuing increases in the prices of oil products and food.

Piston national president Steve Ranjo said there will be 12 "key rally areas" in Metro Manila. These

are Alabang, Monumento, Novaliches Bayan, Cubao, Marikina, Taytay Market, Kalayaan Avenue corner Kamias, Welcome Rotonda, Philcoa and Pier South.

He also said Piston affiliates

in Baguio City, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Camarines Sur and Norte, Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate and Catanduanes, among others, will be joining the transport strike.

Piston is demanding that government scrap the 12 percent expanded value added tax on oil products, repeal the Oil Deregulation Law and arrest the continuing increase of oil prices.

Extortion gang claims bomb that wounded 5

MIDSAYAP, Philippines (AP)—A notorious extortion gang claimed responsibility Friday for detonating a bomb in a passenger van that wounded five people in the southern Philippines, a town mayor said.

Manuel Rabara, mayor of Midsayap township in North Cotabato province, told reporters he had received several calls from a man demanding money on behalf of his group before and after the bomb went off at a passenger terminal Thursday.

"We will not give in to their demand," Rabara said.

The homemade bomb, apparently detonated by cell phone, exploded while the van was about to begin a journey, police said. Five people were wounded, including a mother and her two children. The mother's feet may have to be amputated, said a doctor, Sanny Sandig.

Midsayap police chief Superintendent Chino Mamburam

said authorities were trying to determine if the explosive was the same type used in the bombing of a parked bus in the same town last month.

Police believe the April attack, which caused no injuries, was the work of the Al-Khobar gang that has been targeting bus companies and other businesses.

Authorities said the group has ties to al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants, notorious for bomb attacks and kidnappings for ransom.

Midsayap, about 550 miles (890 kilometers) south of Manila, has been threatened by extortion gangs in the past and is located near Muslim separatist guerrilla camps.



Arroyo says no to becoming a vegetarian

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has declined an animal rights group's invitation to become a vegetarian to help fight hunger in her country, her spokesman said Friday.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals challenged Arroyo in an open letter to shun meat, saying that "adopting a vegetarian diet and publicly advocating the same would do far more than any photo op."

The PETA director for Asia-

Pacific, Jason Baker, said that raising animals for food is "condemning people in the Philippines and around the world to starvation." He said food fed to animals is enough to feed half the world.

Arroyo was not persuaded to change her diet.

"The president is one who believes in freedom of choice," spokesman Ignacio Bunye told reporters. "You cannot impose on others."

Bunye said some Cabinet members are vegetarian.

Court says actor a 'flight risk'

MANILA, Philippines—Actor Gabby Concepcion cannot leave the country while the bigamy case against him is pending.

The Bureau of Immigration issued a hold-departure order against Concepcion after Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 6 Judge Jansen Rodriguez granted the prosecution's motion for a hold-departure order.

Rodriguez said the actor was "at large" in the United States for almost 12 years and, as an American citizen, could leave the Philippines "anytime he wishes."

The former matinee idol, who was charged for marrying actress Sharon Cuneta in 1984 while still allegedly married to a certain Jennifer Martin, appeared at the 10 a.m. pre-trial Thursday with his lawyer Ed Flaminiano.

Concepcion is also facing related charges of falsification of public documents before the Metropolitan Trial Court in Manila for allegedly "antedating" an application for a marriage license.

The court, in its order dated April 23, also approved a motion to increase Concepcion's bail from P12,000 to P24,000 for the same reason of flight risk. The prosecution earlier argued that the Department of Justice set a new bail of P24,000 for bigamy.

Concepcion posted a P12,000 bail on March 31, a day after he arrived from the US.

The defense supposedly filed Saturday a motion for reconsideration but clerk of court Riza Endozo said Thursday they had yet to receive it. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Appeals court grants asylum to Filipina

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court has granted political asylum to a woman who was gang-raped and tortured 26 years ago in her native Philippines.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled Tuesday that Rosalina Silaya was a target of the New People's Army rebels because her father fought during World War II under U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then supported Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos.

When when Silaya was 23, members of the New People's Army barged into the family's home, knocked her unconscious and kidnapped her.

Over three days, she was beat up, cut, burnt and raped before the men dumped her, still naked and bound, in her family's living room. She became pregnant from the rapes and delivered a daughter in 1983.

Silaya said after the ordeal she was "fearful all the time. Wherever I went in the Philippines ... I was afraid the NAP soldiers would find me."

That fear led her to take a job as a nanny in the United States in 1985 and not return home when her visa expired, she said.



Protesters display placards while protesting in front of the Thai Embassy to urge Thailand, next year's chair of the 10-member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) summit to persuade Myanmar's military junta to postpone the May 10 National Referendum following Saturday's devastating cyclone, at the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines, Thursday May 8, 2008.

Protesters: Postpone Myanmar referendum

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—About 30 Filipino protesters demanded Wednesday that Myanmar's junta postpone this week's planned constitutional referendum and allow the unrestricted entry of international relief following a devastating cyclone.

"While the people are so worried about survival in the midst of this disaster, the junta is too preoccupied thinking of how to pursue its referendum," said Egooy Bans, spokesman for the Free Burma Coalition. About 30 protesters from the group marched outside the Myanmar Embassy in Manila.

"This is not the time for a political exercise. The population is very vulnerable and insecure," Bans said. He also called

on Myanmar's military rulers to open the borders of the tightly controlled country to international aid.

In addition, Bans expressed concern that authorities in Myanmar would give priority for aid distribution to communities considered loyal to the military, and would exclude opposition strongholds. He provided no details.

Cyclone Nargis struck over the weekend and killed more than 22,000 people, just days ahead of a key referendum on a draft constitution backed by Myanmar's military leaders as an important step forward on what they call a "road map to democracy." Critics say the constitution is meant to perpetuate military rule.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Celebs pay tribute to their mothers



Sam Milby: "When my mom pushed me to come back to the Philippines, I didn't wanna stay because maiwan ko friends sa States. Wala pa akong kilala dito except my relatives. Little did I know that it would pave the way for my entry to show biz. My ma's decision turned my life around."

Milby



Rachel Alejandro: "Many times my mom had better discernment than me. Like when I put my faith in someone who claimed he could put together a demo for me to get a record deal in the US. Mom had negative vibes about him. True enough, he duped me. I had to sell an expensive watch to afford the project."

PERSONAL FINANCE

Five tips on finding the best wedding ring for your money

By LYNDA C. CORPUZ
MONEYSENSE

"Will you be part of my life?"

I resoundingly replied, "Yes, I will spend the rest of my life with you."

While it was a breeze to say "Yes" to a life-changing decision, looking for the engagement ring that I wanted was not.

Even if you're not a big fan of jewelry like I am, you still need to do your homework. Here's what you need to know when shopping for an engagement or wedding ring:

1. SET A BUDGET.

Your soon-to-be bride may not be too keen about wearing an expensive ring but as Robin said, from centuries back, a ring (usually a diamond ring) traditionally serves as a betrothal gift to the bride and that traditionally, the price tag is equated to the kind of love he has for his bride.

I ended turning down most prospective rings because they were too pricey even if discounted. There is a rule of thumb that says an ideal budget for a ring is worth two months' salary. Eventually, though, the guy will eventually determine how much he is willing to shell out.

2. KNOW THE 4 C'S.

Know the basics if you're planning to get a diamond ring: cut, color, clarity and carat. According to Tiffany and Co., the diamond's cut will determine its defining characteristic – so check for angle and size and the shape; round remains classy, but for variety, you may opt for emerald, heart, oval, marquise, pear, or princess cut.

When we got the discounted amount, I asked if they could just waive the excess P2,500 since it's the only ring of its kind left and we truly came back for it after checking out all the other stores. So they waived it and my fiancé gave me an approving smile for sealing the sale at a more reasonable amount.

The most valuable color is white or colorless, and graded "D" by jewelers. To check the clarity, examine the ring through a jeweler's loupe or magnifying glass, and when the stone is graded SI1 [Slightly Included 1] or better (best and most expensive is IF, or Internally Flawless; worst is I3 or Imperfect 3], then your pick is fine. Finding the right carat for your budget is important so ask for stones than the next carat [example: 0.9 instead of 1], since this almost indiscernible difference can lead to significant savings.

In our case, Robin was on the lookout for a simple yet classy ring. He was first considering a round cut diamond. When I later became pro-active in our search, I leaned more toward a princess cut.

3. PICK THE BAND.

According to Suarez Wedding Rings Web site (www.suarez-weddingrings.com), white gold is trendier than the traditional yellow gold and not as rare looking as rose gold. It is more affordable than platinum, an extremely white metal that is harder and more expensive than gold or any other metal at that.

White gold is recommended for stone settings other than yellow. You may opt for 24-karat gold, but you can save more by opting for gold of lesser karat. Since gold by nature is soft and malleable, generally losing its shape over time, cleaning and maintaining your engagement and wedding ring might eventually become a real expense. While we had different ideas regarding the stone, Robin and I settled for an 18K white gold band.

4. SHOP AROUND.

Don't settle for just the popular jewelry stores. You have to search both mom-and-pop jewelry stores and jewelry chains. The latter, of course, command higher prices because of their name and years in the industry. We found our ring at a less popular store, which has the accreditations required and follows global guidelines (the Philippines follows the International Gemological Institute guide on diamond clarity). Most stores we checked also offered discounts, but the smaller—and more eager—stores will give in to the customer's (reasonable) demands.

When we got the discounted amount, I asked if they could just waive the excess P2,500 since it's the only ring of its kind left and we truly came back for it after checking out all the other stores. So they waived it and my fiancé gave me an approving smile for sealing the sale at a more reasonable amount.

5. DON'T BUY ALONE.

For men, bring a companion when buying jewelry – someone who knows your ladylove's preferences. If you decide to go with your fiancée, you may lose the surprise element and the romanticism, but it can be worth it. Looking for a ring together is an exercise in mutual decision-making, involving money at that. Buying the engagement ring gave us an idea how we are going to work together as a couple in the near future.

This article is from MoneySense, the Philippines' first and only personal finance magazine. Visit www.moneysense.com.ph for more.

Alcasid

Miriam Quiambao: "My mom is an avid devotee of Mama Mary. When I got separated and was suffering from depression, she prayed the rosary with me during my sleepless nights until I would fall asleep. She encouraged me to get busy in order to move forward in life. Now I'm back on my feet and stronger than ever."

Ogie Alcasid: "I remember my mom deciding for me that I should shift to mass com in UP Diliman instead of finishing my agriculture degree in UP Los Baños. I was quite confused then as to what my calling was. It was in entertainment pala!"

Picache

Toni Rose Gayda: "There was a time my mom hated the guy I was seeing. He was a very charming, charismatic guy. I fought for him only to realize that the rumors were true—that he was a liar and a deceiver. No wonder my mom could never accept him."

Cherry Pie Picache: "There were many things that my mother taught me. But I took them for granted and realized the truth only when I became a mother myself. We should appreciate and, in our own little ways, give back the love our moms gave us unselfishly."

Show biz friends host reunion party for Gabby

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Iza Calzado is all revved up for her movie with Gabby Concepcion. "I've always liked his red lips and broad shoulders," she says.

Isn't she wary that they would be romantically linked once shooting starts? "Intrigues are part of our job. As long as it doesn't affect my family, deadma lang ako."

Won't the cases Gabo is facing adversely affect their movie? "I hope the public will focus on our performance more instead of our personal lives," she sighs.

First thing she'll tell Gabby when they finally meet? "Thanks for trusting me." Shouldn't that be Gabo's line to Iza instead?

Reunited

Mark Gil, Cherie Gil and Michael de Mesa hosted a reunion party for Gabby Concepcion.



Lloyd Samartino, Paolo Contis and Al Tantay, Mark's wife Maricar and Michael's wife Julia were also at the fete.

"We had a good time reminiscing the good old days," says Mark. "Gabo and I were ribbing each other that we should call

William Martinez and the rest so we can do 'Bilibid Boys 2'." Bilib it or not, they haven't lost their '70s charm.

Silent breakup
Jericho Rosales' camp remains quiet about his breakup with Heart. "Echo will talk when he's ready," says his close friend. "Both of them are still hurting. We pray for peace and understanding for all that has transpired."

I remember when Echo and I were at a party in Bohol last Feb. While watching the fireworks, he told me that he wants to surprise Heart on her birthday by making the sky light up that way.

Echo did greet Heart with fireworks. Too bad the fire between them has been extinguished.

Alejandro

Karylle: "It's great to get advice from friends but even better to get advice from a mother. Sometimes I think it'd be nice to just let her side with me completely and tell me that everything I say is correct. But her open-mindedness and non-judgmental nature help me see different sides of the story, which in the long run is what I needed to hear because mother knows best."



Jed Madela: "My mom always had strong instincts. When I was in high school, she didn't allow me to join my friends at a bar. I resented it because she gave me no reason why di niya ako pinayagan. The next day, I was shocked to find out that the bar burned down and many people died."

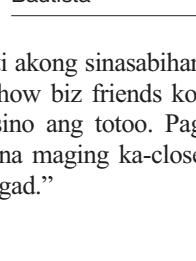


Karylle

Christian Bautista: "My mom once sat down with me and told me I should give more time to the family. After that, I became closer to everybody. She's right in saying that no matter what, it's always the family that we can run to."



Cristine Reyes: "Parati akong sinasabihan ni ma na mag-ingat sa show biz friends ko. Kilatisin ko daw kung sino ang totoo. Pag may tao na ayaw si ma na maging ka-close ko, nilalayo na niya ako agad."



Bautista

Roxanne Guinoo: "Every time I fall in love, my ma knows from the start if the relationship would last or not. Tama ang kutob niya parati."

Sunshine Cruz: "I've made decisions in my life that were against my mama's wishes. But after kong madapa, she always welcomes me back with open arms—no questions asked." (PDI)

Ogie's birthday gift of song

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ogie Alcasid gave his friend Judy Ann Santos a unique birthday gift—the theme song of her new movie, "Ploning."

He allowed the producers to use his old song, "Ikaw ang Pag-Ibig," free of charge.

"I would have written a new one," Ogie says, "but we were pressed for time. I looked through my files and found the song, from Sharon Cuneta's 'Sharon Sings Alcasid' CD."

Earlier, Ogie wrote music for the animated feature, "Urduja," which opens next month.

Soundtrack

"Our record label, Indimusic, will release the soundtrack this month," he says. The lyr-

ics are by Joey de Leon. Apart from the main theme, "Babae Ako," sung by girlfriend Regine Velasquez (who voiced for the Urduja character), Ogie wrote three other songs, one of them for Jay Manalo's character, Simakwel.

Ogie agrees with APT producer Tony Tuviera's observation that "Urduja" is a product of serendipity. "Everything just fell into place," Ogie says. As in "Ploning," he wasn't originally meant to work on "Urduja."

Joey was supposed to collaborate with Vic Sotto, but the latter proved too busy with "Eat Bulaga" and the "Enteng" movies, recalls Tony.

"At first, I was daunted [to fill Vic's shoes], but who wouldn't want to be part of 'Urduja'?" Ogie says.



Guinoo



Guinoo

Guinoo

Maharlika – Opinyon

Letter to the Editor

Forget about importing rice

Editor's Note: First published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on May 9, 2008.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should not listen to the International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank and World Bank's prodding for us to keep on importing rice. She should insist on a hardline policy of self-sufficiency.

Many rice farmers in my province of Laguna are already down and many are thinking of joining the New People's Army. If she lets the rice-farming industry collapse, more people would go poor and join the discontented in the hills.

I'm lucky to have the benefit of an Agriculture degree from the University of the Philippines (UP), Los Baños, and to have made adjustments for organic rice farming years ago. I'm making more than twice the money from my small rice farm than ordinary rice farmers do with their artificial fertilizers and chemicals.

The President should not listen to my fellow UP experts who are espousing the IMF, WB and ADB line. They are armchair experts who know nothing about real rice farming. What they say of a land's topographical features, lack of water, etc. may be true. But if the President would combine her self-sufficiency thrust with massive reforestation in rice-growing provinces and areas, the problem with lack of water would be diminished.

And what's our country without typhoons? The Philippines wouldn't be the Philippines without the typhoons. Our farmers are used to typhoons. They are able to recover from typhoons within months. We as a nation are used to typhoons. Within months, we were able to recover from the last typhoon that devastated us. Unlike New Orleans, it has still to recover from "Katrina" because the people there aren't used to that kind of storm.

The President should be determined to lead the country to self-sufficiency in rice: Make inputs cheaper, install more irrigation facilities, build more farm-to-market roads, provide cheap loans. (She should not allow the use of rice lands as collateral because that would give greedy banks the opportunity to acquire more lands and thus render farmers landless again. Loans of around P20,000 with 2 percent interest and requires no collateral would be very useful to my fellow rice farmers.) She should also make it mandatory for rice-growers to form cooperatives so that they would earn more and be able to plant more.

Richard Yu
via e-mail

Honesty

*"Honesty is such a lonely word
Everyone is so untrue.
Honesty is hardly ever heard
And mostly what I need from you."*

The words come from Billy Joel, from a song entitled, "Honesty." I thought that had become this country's new national anthem until I read about Nestor Sulpico. Sulpico came home four months ago to no parades and with no welcoming leis put around his neck by winsome lasses at the airport. It's doubtful if his fellow passengers or any airport official knew who he was.

Yet at one time, or four years ago in 2004, he made American headlines by being hailed as "New York's most honest taxi driver." That was after he returned \$75,000 worth of black pearls a passenger had left in his cab. He got a citation from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg for honesty over and beyond the call of duty or taxi-driving, and even landed in "Oprah" for it. He also got a scholarship from the city government, which he used to enroll in nursing.

Alas, he would not finish his course and become a caregiver. He died in his hometown of Jaro, Iloilo, last week after battling cancer of the colon. He was 51.

There must be something to the saying that the good die young and the bad seeds shrivel away only after a long, long time. Well, maybe there's justice in that too, in evil men and women being punished by having to endure their miserable, if quite vicious, selves for what seems like an eternity. But that's another story.

What made Sulpico do his shining deed? The cynical might say he probably figured New York was not Manila, they have ways there of tracing items lost in cabs to their finders. Maybe. Though if you've been to New York, you know it's not entirely unlike Manila and you could always get away insisting another passenger probably found the pearls.

Nestor's elder sister, Eva, has a better explanation, which was also the explanation Nestor himself offered repeatedly when asked why he did it: "I was raised to be honest."

What a wealth of meaning that simple sentence suggests! At the very least it does your parents proud. It's the opposite of saying—or living the fact since no one may really be expected to say it—"I was raised to be crooked," which spits on the graves, or ashes, of your parents.

At the very most, it also suggests a breadth of imagination. I've always thought that contrary to rumor, people who were raised to be honest do not lack imagination, they possess it abundantly. The charge that honest people lack imagination comes from the notion that they cannot visualize or appreciate the improvements in life they can have if they just clung to their ill-gotten gain. "Tanga" is the word commonly used. In fact the opposite is true. Honest people have the imagination to visualize the plight of those who have lost things that are precious to them and appreciate the depths of anguish they must be going through. It is the ability to empathize, to put yourself in another person's shoes, to feel what the other person feels—different ways of saying the same thing. Sulpico would have been one hell of a caregiver.

That is a function of imagination. Honesty is not just a virtue of the heart, it is a virtue of the head. Honest people are not soft-minded, they are tough-minded.

I don't know why, short of erecting a monument to Sulpico, the Senate cannot cite him for doing a great service to the nation. Or better still put up cash and kind to help his kin get by. The great service he has done is to rescue the Philippines from its increasingly unsavory reputation as the "Ladrones Islands" or the Land of Thieves. Of course, his deed alone won't erase the raging blot or blight, not least because it's now close to four years old, but it should help remind the world not all Filipinos are crooks.

Which is the impression other countries probably now have about us today. Political & Economic Risk Consultancy has pegged us as the most corrupt country in Asia for two straight years. We've just gone through a Senate hearing that showed how epic thieving attaches like a leech to government contracts.

THERE'S THE RUB
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Inquirer



The US Department of State has just charged that the biggest obstacle to antiterrorism in this country is massive corruption and not massive convolution. American medical authorities have charged as well that US veterans have colluded with Philippine medical institutions to defraud the US government of hundreds of millions of dollars. That doesn't include the near-universal belief by Filipinos and foreigners alike that the current occupant of Malacañang stole the vote itself. It's enough to make anybody believe that in this country nothing is safe that isn't nailed to the floor.

We ourselves can do with reminders, however feeble and dated, that not all of us are crooks. Indeed, that not many of us are so. Example is the best teacher of all. You set a bad example, you'll have a contagion. You set a good example, you'll have an explosion—of good deeds. You cheat in elections, you'll have would-be nurses cheating in exams. You return money someone left in your cab, you'll have other drivers returning money passengers left in their cab. If I recall right, that was what happened many years ago. A local cab driver returned a hundred thousand or so bucks that he found in his taxi, and his example sparked an epidemic of drivers returning things they found in their cabs, jeepneys and buses.

I don't know that Sulpico's deed will start an epidemic of honesty in this country. I can only hope that by honoring the man, and recollecting his shining hour, we will remind ourselves of the precious things we've lost over the last eight years that have left us poor and dispossessed. We have not just lost our vote, we have lost our pride and our honor.

And the one who found them, or stole them, has yet to give them back.

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Filipino ideals of good citizenship

By MAHAR MANGAHAS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Last week I reported that we Filipinos, relative to other nationalities, are outstanding in caring about the right of civil disobedience. However, we are below average in caring about the right to a minimum living standard, the rights of minorities, the right to equal treatment, the right to be heard, and the right to participate in the democratic process.

Good citizenship entails, of course, not only demanding rights but also fulfilling duties.

This week, I will report, also based on the 2004 Survey on Citizenship of the International Social Survey Program (www.issp.org), that Filipinos, relative to others, have outstandingly high ideals about what one should do to be a good citizen.

The 2004 ISSP Citizenship Survey made a list of 10 duties of citizens and asked the respondents to grade each one in importance to them personally, on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is "Not at all important" and 7 is "Very important." Here are the percentages giving answers 6 or 7 for Filipinos, some nationalities of interest, and the global average, in the sequence in which the duties of citizens were rated:

1. Always to vote in elections: Filipinos 88, Americans 78, Mexicans 75, Koreans 71, global 68, Taiwanese and Spaniards 68, Japanese 67. On putting importance to voting, the Philippines ranks No. 1, followed by Denmark (87) and Canada (84). The lowest is the Czech Republic (37).

2. Never to try to evade taxes: Japanese 85, Americans 84, Taiwanese 80, Filipinos 79, Koreans 78, Mexicans and Spaniards 75, global 73. The duty to pay proper taxes is the only issue where the Philippines is outranked by more than one of the base-comparison countries. Japan is No. 1, and the United States is tied for No. 2 with Great Britain. The Philippines, only six points behind Japan, is tied for No. 9

with Chile and Slovakia. Last is Flanders (52).

3. Always to obey laws and regulations: Filipinos 86, Americans 85, Mexicans 84, Taiwanese 83, Japanese 81, global 78, Koreans 77, Spaniards 76. On top, all at 88, are Venezuela, Bulgaria, Canada and Poland. The Philippines, only two points behind the leaders, is tied for No. 8 with Chile and Ireland. Last is Switzerland (51).

4. To keep watch on the actions of government: Filipinos 79, Americans 75, Mexicans 69, Japanese 59, Taiwanese 59, global 55, Koreans 53, Spaniards 50. No. 1 is Canada (81), closely followed by the Philippines and the United States. At the bottom is the Czech Republic (23).

5. To be active in social or political associations: Filipinos 59, Mexicans 49, Spaniards and Americans 30, Koreans 27, global 26, Taiwanese 22, Japanese 15. On this, the Philippines—the recognized Asian leader in civil society organizations—is No. 1; it is the only country where a majority give importance to it. Mexico and South Africa are tied for No. 2. Last is Finland (6).

6. To try to understand the reasoning of people with other opinions: Mexicans 76, Filipinos 68, Americans 67, Spaniards 65, global 61, Koreans 59, Japanese 49, Taiwanese 47. No. 1 is Uruguay (85), followed by Mexico. The Philippines is No. 9. Last is the Czech Republic (35), just below Taiwan.

7. To choose products for political, ethical or environmental reasons, even if they cost a bit more: Spaniards 53, Filipinos 47, Koreans 44, Taiwanese 39, Americans 37, Mexicans 35, global 34, Japanese 25. No. 1 is Portugal (56), followed by Spain, and Australia (49). Only two countries have majorities who say that a good citizen-consumer should use some social criteria. The Philippines is tied for No. 4 with Austria. At the bottom is Bulgaria (8).

8. To help people in [name of this country] who are worse off than yourself: Mexicans 85, Filipinos 79, Spaniards 74, Americans 70, global 62, Taiwanese

60, Koreans 50, Japanese 41. The leaders are Venezuela (90), Chile (88), Uruguay (86), and then Mexico. The Philippines is No. 6, after Israel (80). At the bottom are the Czech Republic (31) and Hungary (38), just below Japan.

9. To help people in the rest of the world who are worse off than yourself: Mexicans 80, Spaniards 67, Filipinos 55, global 44, Americans 37, Taiwanese 36, Japanese 28, Koreans 20 (last place). No. 1 is Venezuela (85), followed by Mexico. Spain is No. 4. The Philippines, a huge 30 points below the leader, is nevertheless No. 9 because only in 10 countries do majorities say that helping others in the world is part of being a good citizen. This is the one issue on which the United States is below average.

10. To be willing to serve in the military at a time of need: Filipinos 62, Americans 60, Taiwanese 57, Mexicans 56, Koreans 54, global 43, Spaniards 25, Japanese 13. No. 1 is Israel (79), where universal military service is a matter of national survival. Israel is far ahead of Russia (65), Poland (63), and the Philippines, which is tied for No. 4 with Venezuela. At the bottom are Flanders (12) and Japan.

Aside from Filipinos, only Mexicans are always above the global average. By ranking No. 1 twice, No. 2 once, and no worse than No. 9, we Filipinos have an average rank of 5.3 in giving importance to citizens' duties. Venezuelans have three No. 1 rankings, but have a poorer average of 8.3 on account of three rankings of No. 14 or worse. Mexicans, who outrank Filipinos in three of the 10 citizens' duties, have an average rank of 8.6.

Much can be learned about ourselves by studying others. Survey evidence shows, not for the first time, that to denigrate Filipinos with the term "damaged culture" is to rely on parachute journalism rather than on social science.

Contact Social Weather Stations: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) president Irene N. Tantiado delivers her remarks during the group's first general assembly at the Garapan Central Park Sunday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dekada president Boni Sagana delivers his remarks while Dekada Movement counsel Stephen C. Woodruff listen during the general meeting and informational forum hosted by the Dekada Movement, MOVER, Bicol Association, Unity Core Group, and the United Filipino Organization at the Bicol Pavilion on Kilili Beach last Saturday.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guest workers listen to the speakers general meeting and informational forum on Federalization at the Bicol Pavilion on Kilili Beach last Saturday.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipino nonresident workers gather at the Bicol Pavilion on Kilili Beach last Saturday for the general meeting and informational forum hosted by the Dekada Movement, MOVER, Bicol Association, Unity Core Group, and the United Filipino Organization.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipino nonresident workers listen to the speakers during the first general assembly of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) at the Garapan Central Park Sunday morning.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday greetings go out to May Anne Cabaluna who is celebrating her birthday today. May the good Lord grant you all your wishes on your special day and may He shower you with blessings not just today but in the many years to come! Greetings come from the Limon family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Band members entertain the crowd during the first general assembly of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) at the Garapan Central Park Sunday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



GARAPAN CLEANUP

Members of the CNMI POWER conduct their regular cleanup of the area surrounding the Garapan Elementary School. The group has adopted the area as part of their community cleanup activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Kids talk with author Kate DiCamillo...

By JESSICA FELDMAN and ANJELICA MANTIKAS
© 2008, NEWSDAY

We interviewed Newbery Award-winning author Kate DiCamillo in Manhattan recently.

Question: How long did it take you to write the book "Great Joy"?

Answer: It's weird because the manuscript is four pages long. I must have rewritten it five or six times before it got to my editor, and then I rewrote it with my editor maybe three times. Then once the art comes in for a picture book, then you have to rewrite some of the words. All told, it takes about three years.

Q: How did it feel to have your debut novel, "Because of Winn-Dixie," appear on The New York Times' bestseller list?



DiCamillo

A: Maybe you know this feeling. You get this little idea, passion and you are going to go do it even though everyone says it sounds kind of silly and then you go ahead and do it and then all of sudden the world responds. It is kind of overwhelming and fabulous in that way.

You also kind of don't believe it, either.

Q: Would you say there is a part of you in the main characters you write about?

A: Yes. Always. The closest I come to appearing in a book is Sistine Bailey in "The Tiger Rising." And the narrator in the "The Tale of Despereaux" sounds a whole lot like me, a smart aleck.

Q: Were you anxious about the release of "The Tiger Rising" because the plotline is darker than "Because of Winn-Dixie"?

A: Yes, very much so, especially since everybody liked "Winn-Dixie" so much, and they wanted the same type of story and "The Tiger Rising" is not the same type of story. There were people who were

not very pleased.

Q: How did it feel to win the Newbery Medal for "The Tale of Despereaux"?

A: That award is fabulous, because people who don't even pay attention to books know what the Newbery award is. When they called to say that, I was just blown away, and I made them repeat it three times before I believed it.

Q: Who is your favorite author of all time?

A: Can you answer that question? I can't narrow it down to just one, but if you made me choose, I would say E.B. White. Because I loved "Charlotte's Web" so much and I loved the stuff that he wrote for adults, too. But that's if you made me choose, but don't make me choose.

...with author Judy Blume...

By EMILY GALLAGHER, SHANNON MCGRATH and MARYKATE SMITH
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We interviewed author Judy Blume at Barnes & Noble on Long Island recently.

Question: What inspired you to write children's books?

Answer: I just always identified with kids, and I never forgot the kid that I was. You don't have to have kids to write children's books, but you have to have a really good memory for childhood and what it was like.

Q: On your Web site (judyblume.com), it says you can't name a favorite book you've written. But is there one whose message you are most proud of?



Blume

A: I don't think of (writing) in terms of messages, because I write just to tell a good story. But to answer your question, I would say "Blubber." It's about kids being mean to each other in class.

Q: We read that Sally in "Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself" was the character most like you at age 10. How was she like you?

A: She is my most autobiographical character, and even that family is most my like my own out of all the families I've written about. Sally has a lot of imagination, and I always had stories running inside my head. I was very dramatic like Sally, and I always wanted to be a heroine.

Q: You based the character Fudge on your son Larry when he was younger. Was his nickname Fudge?

A: No, I don't know where that came from. We called him Larry and still call him Larry. He's a grown-up now.

Q: Did any of your fans ever give you an idea for a book? If so, which book?

A: The character Rachel in "Here's to You, Rachel Robinson" came from a couple of places and one was a girl who wrote me a letter. She said she was very, very smart and was being put into a different program in school that took her away from her friends. Her friends didn't want to be her friend anymore because she was different. She said she would give up being smart if only she could be a regular girl. I found that sad.

Q: We read you get ideas for books sometimes in the shower. Why do you think that is?

A: I think you get ideas anytime you're not thinking about getting ideas.

They don't come when you sit and think and wish they would come. They come from that other place inside your head when you're not aware of it.

...with the band Plain White T's...

By LINDSEY MONTANO, CHRISTOPHER O'LEARY and LINDSEY WALSH
Kidsday Staff Reporters
© 2008, NEWSDAY

We spoke with the band Plain White T's after a photo shoot in Manhattan recently. It was cool watching them pose.

Question: Tom, you wrote the hit single "Hey There Delilah." Is Delilah your girlfriend?

Tom: No, she's not. Delilah is a girl who I thought was really pretty that I wrote a song about. We kind of were friends. I wanted the song to be as pretty as she was.

Q: You write most of the band's songs. Which do you prefer: writing or singing?

Tom: The whole process is cool because the writing is creating it and then once you get to sing it, that's kind of a way of sharing it. Both things are definitely cool.

Q: What has been your favorite song that you've written?

Tom: Probably "Hey There Delilah." I think it's one of the best I've ever written.

Q: How did your band form?

Tom: Dave and I went to high school together, and we were into music. We played music in my basement together with other friends of ours. When I started writing songs, we just kind of started Plain White T's and have been going at it ever since.

Q: Why did you name the band Plain White T's?

Tom: We thought it was a cool-sounding name because everybody wears a plain white T. It's always in style.

Dave: And in the history of musical culture, artists have worn white T-shirts, like Elvis, Michael Jackson.

Q: What do you like to do when you're not on tour?

Dave: I like seeing my family and friends.

Tom: I like going to see other bands play.

Mike: When we have down time on tour, we play video games. Lately, we've been playing the bowling game on Nintendo's Wii.

Q: What is the best and worst thing about being famous?

Tom: We don't really consider ourselves

famous. We don't really get stopped for autographs. But one time in Chicago (where most of the band is from), I went to see Fall Out Boy play before we were on tour with them. I couldn't even go into the crowd because people came up to me to... ask for autographs, and I'm trying to enjoy the band. That's probably the worst of it, even though it is flattering.

Dave: The best part is people give us free stuff. When we started, we had to save up our money to buy a cheap instrument or had to ask for it as a gift. Then when you are given them for free, that's really cool.

Mike: I think it's so cool to see yourself on TV, even if it's for five minutes. And we get to meet people who are actually famous.

Q: If you weren't in a band, what career would you choose?

Mike: I like science a lot, so maybe I'd do something with science.

Tom: I wish I could be a really good chef. But it's not too late.

Q: Whose music do you like to listen to, other than yours?

Mike: Probably, collectively, the Beatles would be No. 1.

not quite high enough.

Q: How old were you when you first started acting?

Laura: When I started professionally, I was 9 years old and I did "The Christmas Spectacular at Radio City."

Nikki: I started dancing when I was young. It didn't even occur to me to (act). I was in high school when someone said I could get paid to do dress-up for a living.

Q: What do you do when you for-

get your lines?

Nikki: There have been so many really funny incidences. There are people upstage who want to help you out (or) work in the lines some other way.

They try to feed you the lines.

Laura: I've never had a big line flub up. I have skipped over things. It is very strange when it happens. I was dancing (for the "Hairspray" song "Nicest Kids in Town" and) just started thinking, what am I doing, and I just stopped dancing. Everybody was still dancing and I was having this out-of-body experience. If we flub something, another cast member helps you out or . . . everyone starts laughing.

...and with actresses Laura Bell Bundy, Nikki Snelson

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We interviewed two of the stars from the Broadway show "Legally Blonde"—Laura Bell Bundy (who plays Elle Woods) and Nikki Snelson (Brooke Wyndham) at the Four Seasons Hotel in Manhattan recently.

Question: Why did you want to play in "Legally Blonde"?

Laura: I couldn't think of a more perfect character for me to play. When I heard they were making a musical of the movie, I said I have to do this. I felt if I don't get the part I should leave the business.

Nikki: I knew one of the writers from way back in the day. I was sort of playing one of the sorority girls in the readings and the workshops that we do. I always knew that I would be way too old to be one of them, but I had completely forgotten about the aerobics instructor which is right about my age.

Q: Nikki, do you practice the jump roping?

Nikki: I have tried it at home, but my plasma screen TV does not fare well with all the jumping, and the ceiling is

not quite high enough.

Q: How old were you when you first started acting?

Laura: When I started professionally, I was 9 years old and I did "The Christmas Spectacular at Radio City."

Nikki: I started dancing when I was young. It didn't even occur to me to (act). I was in high school when someone said I could get paid to do dress-up for a living.

Q: What do you do when you for-



Snelson



Bundy

Stuff kids buy

DOO YOGA

By ERIN MCDONOUGH
KIDSAY REPORTER

I tried out the Doo Yoga yoga mat (\$21.99, Gaiam). It comes with eight yoga poses featuring the cartoon character Scooby-Doo. This mat is so soft. If you don't want to do yoga, you can take a nap on it. It is easy to roll up, and it doesn't take up much space. It is good for teens and younger kids. So if mom and dad are taking a yoga class or working out in the house, you can work out right alongside them. I rate this mat a 4 (out of 5).



REEF & REED BAGS

By SALLY KUAN, OLIVIA RESSA and LAURA RUSSO
KIDSAY REPORTERS

The unique Reef & Reed shoulder bag is very original. It is a fish-shaped bag with fins. The bag comes in different species of sea creatures, such as clownfish, Orcas, sharks, trout and blue and purple tangs. The bags are made from 100 percent polyester, so they can be washed easily. Reef & Reed shoulder bags are also water resistant and include a comfortable, adjustable strap. A lot of kids will like these bags because they're comfortable and fashionable. We like these bags because they look adorable! You can find them online at reefandreed.com. They cost about \$25.

NICKELODEON TRIVIA CHALLENGE GAME

By TAL OREN
KIDSAY REPORTER

I played the Nickelodeon Trivia Challenge Game (\$24.95). My sister and I liked it. We competed against each other. It has 1,000 questions from 19 Nickelodeon shows. If you get the right answer, it will show a smiley face. If you answer incorrectly, you get a sad face and it shows you the correct answer. It has a timer. When the timer goes out, you find out who is the winner.



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL SING IT!

By RACHEL WALTZER
KIDSAY REPORTER

By playing High School Musical Sing It! (\$60, Disney), a karaoke game, you can test your music skills and see how well you perform. I tested it with the Wii system. Your goal is to sing in harmony with your duet partner. Or if you're solo, you can still enjoy the experience with songs from both "High School Musical" movies. In addition, there are songs from the Cheetah Girls, Corbin Bleu and more! The game is perfect for when you have company. You can play with up to eight people! By singing the correct words, you have the opportunity to unlock new songs, styles, locations and characters along your singing journey. This is a fun way to see how much you really know about the songs from "High School Musical." I recommend it for all ages, and rate it 3 1/2 stars (out of 5). (© 2008, *Newsday*)

KIDSAY SMILES

By Kidsday Staff Reporters
© 2008, *Newsday*

Why is it dangerous to do math in the jungle?
Because if you add 4 plus 4, you get "ate."

What animal is best at hitting a baseball?
A bat!

Why don't traffic lights ever go swimming?
Because they take too long to change!

What did the skeleton say to the cook?
Can I have spare ribs?

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
Cold blood.

Why didn't the chicken cross the road?
Because he was chicken.

What would you do without your memories?
Forget.

What did one fan say to the other fan?
You blow me away.

Why do you go to bed?
Because the bed won't come to you.

What has 10 letters and starts with gas?
An automobile

What has two eyes but can't see?
An icicle

Student: Would you punish me for something I did not do?
Teacher: Of course not.
Student: Good, because I did not do my homework.

Knock knock
Who's there?
Police
Police who?
Police open the door, it is cold out here.

Why was the plumber depressed?
His career was going down the drain.

Why did the elephant eat the candle?
He wanted a light snack.

What language does a billboard speak?
Sign language.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
I don't know. I thought you would know.

Why were two witches in the same room?

Because they are broom-mates.

What do you call a pig who does karate?
A pork chop.

What did the tie say to the shirt?
Nothing, ties can't talk!

If 20 birds read terrible tales, how many "b's" would there be in all?
None—there are no "b's" in the word "all."

What did one eye say to the other?
Between you and me, something smells.

What did the whale put on its toast?
Jellyfish.

How do small people travel?
In a minivan.

What should you do when 19 guys are running at you?
Throw the football.

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it and gray when you throw it away?
Charcoal.

How do you know if an ocean is friendly?
It will wave.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Meatballs

By ANTHONY SCARPELLI
KIDSAY CHEF



- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1. In a large bowl, mix bread crumbs, cheese and cold water together with a fork. Add remaining ingredients and mix with clean hands until combined. (If mixture is very sticky, add 1/4 to 1/2 cup additional bread crumbs.)

2. Shape mixture into 2-inch meatballs. Heat a nonstick skillet and fry meatballs on all sides until cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Chicken Adobo with Coconut Milk

By SELENNE RAVINERA
KIDSAY CHEF

- 3 pounds chicken pieces
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 small bay leaf
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 (13.5-ounce) can coconut milk

1. Place the first 8 ingredients in a large pot. Cover and bring to a boil. Simmer over low heat for 30 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Remove chicken pieces and set aside.

2. Heat oil over medium heat in a skillet; add chicken and lightly brown on both sides. Add coconut milk and cook for 5 minutes or until hot. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Potato Chip Chicken Fingers

By TRACY LUM
KIDSAY CHEF

- 5 to 6 ounces potato chips, flavor of

your choice

- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips

1. Crush potato chips in the bag to fine crumbs and place crumbs on a plate.

2. Whisk egg and milk together in a bowl.

3. Dip chicken into egg and milk mixture, and then roll in crushed potato chips.

4. Place chicken on an ungreased cookie sheet.

5. Bake in a preheated, 400-degree oven, for 20 minutes. Turn chicken strips over and bake 20 minutes longer, or until crisp and cooked through.

6. Serve this crunchy treat with salsa, honey-mustard or barbecue sauce. Makes 4 servings.

Tiramisu Pudding

By KAITLIN LIM
KIDSAY CHEF

- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 (3.4-ounce) packages vanilla instant pudding and pie filling
- 3 cups cold milk
- 1 (8-ounce) tub frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 28 Nilla Wafers
- 1/2 cup chocolate milk
- 2 (1-ounce) squares semisweet baking chocolate, coarsely grated
- 1 cup whipped cream, optional
- 1 cup sliced fresh strawberries

1. Beat cream cheese in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Add pudding mixes and milk and beat on low speed until combined.

2. Stir in whipped topping.

3. Line bottom of a 2 1/2-quart bowl with half of Nilla Wafers.

4. Drizzle half of chocolate milk on wafers. Spread half of pudding mixture over wafers. Sprinkle half of grated chocolate on pudding.

5. Place remaining Nilla Wafers on top.

6. Repeat step 4.

7. Top with whipped cream, if using.

8. Decorate top with sliced fresh strawberries (© 2008, *Newsday*)

BOOK REVIEW

"The Penderwicks on Gardam Street"

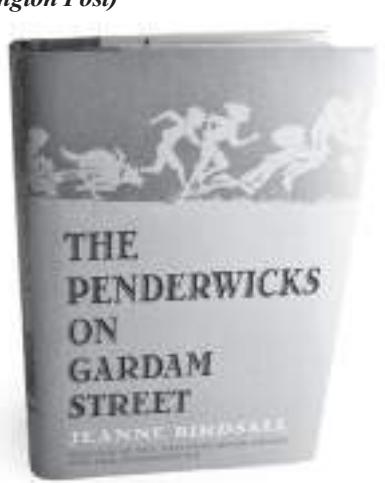
By Jeanne Birdsall
Ages 8-12

The Penderwick sisters—Rosalind, Skye, Jane and Batty—have a problem. Now that their mother has been dead for four years, their aunt is pushing their father to start dating again.

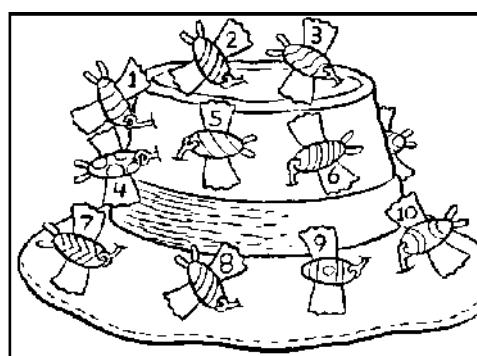
That's the last thing the girls want. They're quite happy having their dad, a college botany professor, all to themselves. If he gets serious about someone, it might lead to them getting a stepmother—and they're much too independent for that! Something must be done to derail this idea ... but what?

You might skip through the pages to see if the girls succeed with their plan. After you finish, go back and read the first book in this heartwarming series: "The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy."

Jeanne Birdsall didn't start writing



"The Penderwicks on Gardam Street" is the second book in a heartwarming series about four sisters written by Jeanne Birdsall.



CAN YOU REEL IN the two flies on Uncle Fred's hat that are exactly alike?

Answer: 2 and 8

EVEN STEVEN!

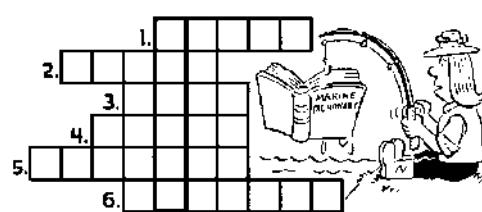
Can you make an "odd" 7 "even"?

Answer: Drop the "S" from the word "SEVEN", and you have the word "EVEN".

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A LUCKY CATCH!

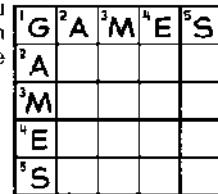


In the grid to the left, there is room to enter six words pertaining to creatures of the sea. The hints below should help.

1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

1. The favorite fish of lucky people.
2. The favorite fish of gamblers.
3. The favorite fish of shoemakers.
4. The favorite shell fish of barbers.
5. The favorite shell fish of jewelers.
6. The favorite fish of photographers.

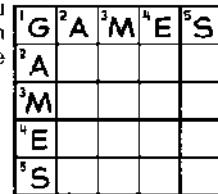
There is a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will tell you how most fish eventually travel.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN! At right is a word square. You are challenged to find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Track and Field (Games, in place).
2. To put up with.
3. To imitate closely.
4. A formal command.
5. Small, religious groups.

Answers: 1. Games 2. Abide 3. Mimic 4. Edict 5. Sects



Answers: 1. Fluke 2. (card) Shirk 3. Soliloquy 4. Razor (clams) 5. Scales (peas) 6. Snapper The dark frame column spells "Frozan".

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It was author and Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist Dave Barry who made the following sage observation: "Although golf was originally restricted to wealthy, overweight Protestants, today it's open to anybody who owns hideous clothing."

■ If the paint on your house is starting to peel or fade and you're dreading the expense and trouble of repainting, you might consider yourself lucky if you remember this: When it comes time for the exterior of the White House to get spruced up, it takes 570 gallons of paint.

■ The oldest woman on record to give birth was 65 years old when she became pregnant.

■ For more proof that the Germans have a word for everything, consider "weltschmerz," a word used to describe the feeling of melancholy that comes from reflecting on the state of the world. A more literal translation is "world pain."

■ You're almost certainly familiar with duct tape, that ubiquitous silver adhesive that comes in giant rolls and sometimes seems capable of fixing anything. It was originally developed as a waterproof sealing tape for ammunition cases in World War II, but was later used to seal heating and air conditioning ducts—whence its name. Ironically, experts now say that while duct tape has many uses, it doesn't actually work very well to seal ducts.

■ Have you ever felt like your pet was really communicating to you—almost talking? Well, a company in Japan wants to help you understand what your cat is saying. It invented a device called the Meowlingual, which purportedly translates the meows of a cat into human language.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits." —Albert Einstein

MAGIC MAZE ● DOG —



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Biscuit	Eat dog	Muzzle	Show
Blanket	Handler	Owner	Track
Breeder	License	Paddle	Whistle
Collar	Lover	Pound	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: *

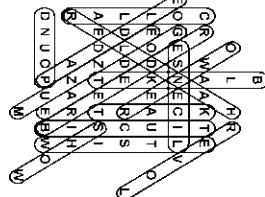
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
+		x		÷	
-			x		18
÷		+		x	
+			+		18

2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

2	7	11	15	18
9	+	7	-	5
6	-	8	x	3
3	x	2	-	8
18	÷	4	+	11

DOG

Pet-sitting business appeals to seniors

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My husband and I read about pet-sitting in our local seniors paper. We are going through some hard times. We need to find some part-time work and would like something we can do together. We both love animals and have done house-sitting and cared for relatives' animals in the past. We think that pet-sitting would be perfect, as we can take dogs for walks or whatever is needed. But we don't know where to start! Can you give us any advice?

DEAR SENIORS: Absolutely—pet-sitting can be a great business to get into, and it is a fast-growing industry.

Your first step should be to contact the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. This organization provides education, certification and networking opportunities for people like you who want to start a pet-sitting business. You can call it at 856-439-0324 to request more information, or visit its Web site at www.petsitters.org.

I'd also recommend taking one or two business courses designed for entrepreneurs. Many local governments or business organizations offer courses for little to no cost. Check your newspaper, local library or city/county Web site for listings.



And of course, get the word out that you are pet-sitting. Tell family and friends that you are now sitting for a fee, and encourage them to spread the word to everyone they know.

Finally—although the NAPS information will cover this as well—if you are hosting pets in your home, make sure that you create a comfortable, healthy environment for "guest" pets as well as yourselves. Don't take on too many clients at once, whether hosting or traveling to the pets' homes to sit, so that you can spend true quality time with the pets. Best of luck!

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Make silhouettes for Mother's Day

Remember back in your kindergarten days, making large shadow silhouettes on black construction paper for a one-of-a-kind Mother's Day gift? Next to small handprints pressed into a round of plaster of Paris, silhouettes rank high on the list of personalized gifts Mom expects to receive sometime along the road of motherhood. To keep with tradition, here's how to make a silhouette suitable for framing. But this time around, the simple craft activity has a modern twist using your favorite photographs.

Here's how:

Choose a photograph of your child that was taken from a side view, so you have a nice profile. Photocopy the photograph or print a copy on regular paper if you have a digital photo on your computer. Using the copy, carefully cut out around the profile. Trace the profile shape on black paper and cut it out, making sure that you include all the tiny details of nose, mouth and hair. We like to use small, sharp craft or manicure scissors for greater accuracy. Mount the cutout on poster board in a contrasting color. Or, use white paper for the silhouette, and mount on a black or other dark background.

Using the same technique, you might want to reproduce a photo of an action shot with Mom and her daughter or son. They might be dancing together, jogging along the sidewalk or shooting a basketball. Cut out the profiles,

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson

trace on paper, cut out and mount them so that the images of the two people fit together well.

Extra tip: Try this idea with other photos throughout the year. For example, take photos of all of the members of your child's softball team. Make a silhouette for each team member as a unique souvenir to hang on his or her bedroom wall.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Mariah Carey, Nick Cannon spill wedding beans

NEW YORK (AP)—Mariah Carey really did get married to Nick Cannon in the Bahamas last week—and they have the tattoos to prove it.

The 38-year-old singer and the 27-year-old actor confirmed to People magazine that they tied the knot at Carey's Bahamian estate April 30 after a courtship that began in late March.

In an interview from the magazine's May 19 issue, Cannon said they clicked instantly when Carey cast him as a lover in the video for her new single, "Bye Bye."

"From the first time we sat down to discuss the video at the Beverly Hills Hotel, we connected," Cannon said. "We had so much in common spiritually, and we laugh at the same things. I didn't have to put on my Mac Daddy suave mode. I was able to be myself with her. We are both eternally 12 years old."

They began a whirlwind romance, and raised eyebrows when Carey was seen sporting a huge diamond ring on her finger at the Tribeca Film Festival premiere of her movie "Tennessee," in which she plays a waitress. Carey said she told "only about four people" about the wedding.

Were Carey's friends surprised?

"Some were, but some weren't," she said. "One thing (few people) knew was we got tattoos a few weeks earlier. So anyone who saw my (Mrs. Cannon) tattoo wasn't surprised."

Chiming in, Cannon said, "To me rings are special and excit-



ing, but tattoos mean more than anything. They're forever and ever. They professed our love."

A dozen guests attended their sunset wedding, where they served Maine lobster and Dom Perignon champagne. The bride wore a gown by Nile Cymo that showed off her curves and faded from off-white to pale pink.

"My pastor Clarence Keaton flew in from New York," Carey said. "The whole wedding was really beautiful and sweet. Being there with loved ones under the sky ... it was a spiritual moment."

Cannon said he was speechless watching Carey walk down the aisle: "I was elated, but I was thinking, 'Don't pass out.' ... (The pastor) said, 'The eyes are the window to the soul,' then gave us an entire minute to stare into each other's eyes. So I was saying, 'Don't cry.'"

The pair said they've thought about having kids.

"It's part of the whole purpose of getting married," Carey said. "I'd just want our children to have the best childhood and upbringing they possibly could."

he said in 1970.

He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1966. The following year he was the first person to receive the entertainer of the year award from the Country Music Association.

The reference book "Top Country Singles 1944-1993," by Joel Whitburn, ranked Arnold the No. 1 country singer in terms of overall success on the Billboard country charts.

Nicknamed "The Tennessee Plowboy," Arnold first gained notice with appearances on the Grand Ole Opry in the early 1940s. He debuted on the charts in 1945 with "Each Minute Seems a Million Years," and began his string of 28 No. 1 country hits with "What Is Life Without Love" in early 1947. His success helped make Nashville an important recording industry hub, according to Sony BMG Nashville, parent of his longtime label, RCA.



In this Jan. 18, 2002 file photo, country music legend Eddy Arnold is shown in his memorabilia-filled office in Brentwood, Tenn.

success paved the way for later singers such as Kenny Rogers.

"I sing a little country, I sing a little pop and I sing a little folk, and it all goes together,"

Study of 'Daily Show': It's a lot like O'Reilly

NEW YORK (AP)—A journalism think tank studying "The Daily Show" doesn't believe many people get their news from Jon Stewart—because otherwise they wouldn't get the jokes.

The Project for Excellence in Journalism also said it was surprised at how much the Comedy Central late-night program resembles "The O'Reilly Factor," "Hardball" and other cable news shows in content.

The Washington-based organization asked its researchers to study a year's worth of "The Daily Show" tapes—hardly a grim assignment—after hearing the frequent claim that many young people learn about the world from Stewart instead of more traditional news sources.

Tom Rosenstiel, the project's director, said he doubts this is the case. He considers "The Daily Show" more of a political satire in the tradition of newspapermen like Art Buchwald, H.L. Mencken and Russell Baker.

"They're not making jokes about Dan Quayle is dumb or Gerald Ford is clumsy," he said. "They're not making jokes that you could get if you live in the country but don't read the news ... You



In this Sept. 25, 2007 file photo, Jon Stewart is shown during a taping of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" in New York.

can't get the jokes if you're not watching the news. The jokes are designed to make you think more about the news."

A Comedy Central representative had no immediate comment on the study. Stewart has consistently ridiculed the idea that he's somehow a newsman, saying he's just a comic.

Politics, government and the Bush administration's policies in Iraq accounted for about half of the show's content, making it quite similar to the focus of serious cable news shows, the study said. About 8 percent of the show's time is spent looking at the behavior of the press.

The show is actually mak-

ing some very serious political commentary, "but they use humor to do it," Rosenstiel said.

With some stories in no way conducive to humor, "The Daily Show" ignores certain big events. The Minnesota bridge collapse wasn't mentioned on the show, and the Virginia Tech massacre was largely ignored, the study said.

And, of course, sometimes the news gives way to pure comedy. On a January day when traditional newscasts led with severe winter weather gripping much of the country, "Stewart began his show by pondering what drink would be best to wash down a Jimmy Dean pancake and sausage on a stick," the study said.

The verdict: Gatorade.

While Stewart aims most of his firepower at Republicans, the show is actually pretty balanced in its bookings, the study noted. Of the clearly partisan, 15 guests were conservative and 18 were liberal. Presumptive GOP presidential nominee John McCain was a guest on Wednesday's show.

"The fact that the lineup of guests is actually even surprised me," Rosenstiel said. "I thought going in that there weren't that many Republicans who would be willing to go on the show."

Country music superstar Eddy Arnold dies at 89

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Eddy Arnold, whose mellow baritone on songs like "Make the World Go Away" made him one of the most successful country singers in history, died Thursday morning, days short of his 90th birthday.

Arnold died at a care facility near Nashville, said Don Cusic, a professor at Belmont University and author of the biography "Eddy Arnold: I'll Hold You in My Heart." His wife of 66 years, Sally, had died in March, and in the same month, Arnold fell outside his home, injuring his hip.

Arnold's vocals on songs like the 1965 "Make the World Go Away," a top 10 pop hit as well as a No. 1 country hit, made him one of the most successful country singers in history.

Folksy yet sophisticated, he became a pioneer of "The Nashville Sound," also called "country-urban," a mixture of country and pop styles. His crossover

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Gorilla celebrates her 55th birthday with frozen cake

DALLAS (AP)—Jenny, recognized as the world's oldest living gorilla in captivity, celebrated her 55th birthday Thursday with a four-layer frozen fruit cake and banana leaf wrapped treats at her wooded home in the Dallas Zoo.

Her caretakers say she's having a few joint issues and her eyesight isn't what it used to be but she still looks good for an old ape.

"It's a special milestone for us," said Todd Bowsher, curator of the zoo's Wilds of Africa exhibit. "It signifies that we've made great strides in veterinary care, nutrition and animal husbandry."

The International Species Information System, which maintains records on animals at 700 institutions around the world, said Jenny is the oldest gorilla in its database.

"I think it's amazing," said Kristen Lukas, curator of conservation and science at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in Ohio and the gorilla species survival plan coordinator for the Asso-

ciation of Zoos and Aquariums. "I think it's a testament to the good care that she's received at the Dallas Zoo and also the resilience of gorillas in general."

Lukas said gorillas in the wild normally would live to age 30 or 35. Health care and protection



Jenny, a western lowland gorilla and the world's oldest captive gorilla, eats a piece of birthday cake as the Dallas Zoo celebrates her 55th birthday, Thursday, May 8, 2008, in Dallas.

from predators has extended the lifespan in zoos.

Of the roughly 360 gorillas in North American zoos, only four are over the age of 50. All of them are female. In addition to Jenny, Lukas noted Trudy at the Little Rock Zoo in Arkansas

sas, Colo at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio and Helen at the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky.

Jenny's keepers describe her as very sweet though a little bossy.

"If she doesn't want to go out on a certain day, she doesn't," Bowsher said. "But she really likes people."

There were plenty of them at the Jake L. Hamon Gorilla Conservation Research Center Thursday, chowing down on giant sheets of chocolate and vanilla birthday cake as they peered at Jenny through the glass.

When keepers set out Jenny's berry-topped frozen cake in a forested clearing, she slowly approached. She scooped up the fruity treat with her right hand, dug into the middle of it with her left then sat down to savor the tasty yogurt-covered remains.

At one point she stood, turned her backside to the phalanx of photographers and cameramen then lumbered off to enjoy her meal in peace.

Whoopi Goldberg to host Tony Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—It will be Whoopi and Tony.

Whoopi Goldberg will serve as host of the 2008 Tony Awards June 15 at Radio City Music Hall, the show's executive producers, Ricky Kirshner and Glenn Weiss, announced Thursday.

"I love Broadway and I'm thrilled to be doing anything for the first time," said Goldberg, who's hosted the Academy Awards four times. "I'm gonna have a blast."

Goldberg, a regular on ABC's "The View," has been on Broadway with her own one-woman show as well as in revivals of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

The 62nd annual Tonys, which honor the best of the 2007-08 Broadway season, will be broadcast live 8-11 p.m. EDT on CBS.

Nominations will be announced Tuesday.

Heath Ledger portrait wins Aussie art award

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—A portrait of Hollywood star Heath Ledger painted weeks before his death has won an Australian art award.

The painting features a bare-chested Ledger staring from the canvas as two images of the actor whisper into his ears.

On Thursday, it was awarded a secondary prize by the Art Gal-



lery of New South Wales in its annual national portrait competition. Sydney artist Del Kathryn Barton won first prize with her self-portrait.

"Heath" by Vincent Fantauzzo was the popular choice among the 32,000 who saw the exhibition.

Ledger died of an accidental prescription drug overdose in January. He was 28.

Lancome, Thurman in contract dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—French cosmetics giant Lancome and Uma Thurman are wrangling over the use of her name and image in an advertising campaign.

The company asked for a ruling against the actress, who it says is demanding \$1 million for unauthorized use of her name and face on Canadian billboards and Asian Web sites after her contract expired.

Thurman's lawyer, Bertram Fields, said he was surprised by Lancome's lawsuit.

"I thought we were negotiating in good faith," Fields said Thursday. "I guess the French decided to strike a pre-emptive blow."

Lancome and Thurman signed a two-year contract in April 2000 with an option to extend the agreement for another two years.

Under the terms, Lancome agreed to pay Thurman \$5.8 million for the first two years and \$3.1 million for each additional year, if the company exer-



In this July 10, 2006 file photo actress Uma Thurman is photographed at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York.

cised its option.

Lancome claims the contract relieves the company of responsibility if third parties use her name and face after the contract lapses.

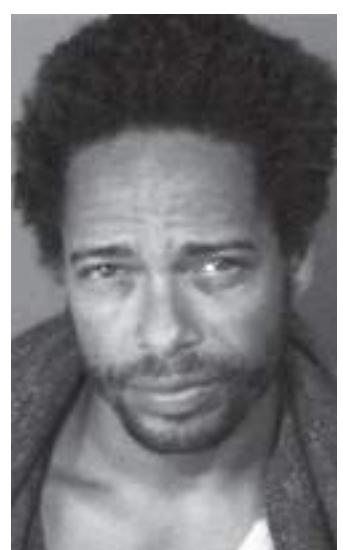
Lancome's lawyer, Peter D. Raymond, said his client "can't control everybody out in the world."

The papers were filed Wednesday in Manhattan's

state Supreme Court. Earlier this week, 37-year-old Jack Jordan was convicted of stalking and harassing Thurman in the court's criminal part.

"I'm delighted that the case will go before a jury," Thurman's lawyer said. "They got an enormous benefit throughout the world after the contract was over, and \$1 million doesn't begin to do it."

'CSI' star charged with drug possession



PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—"CSI" co-star Gary Dourdan has been charged with felony possession of heroin, cocaine and ecstasy stemming from his arrest last month, prosecutors said.

The 41-year-old actor was arrested after police found him asleep in his car in Palm Springs on April 28. He was allegedly parked on the wrong side of the street with the

This police booking photo provided by the Palm Springs, Calif., Police Department shows actor Gary Dourdan who plays Warrick Brown on "CSI."

car's interior light on.

Prosecutors said Dourdan is scheduled to appear in court in Indio, about 130 miles east of Los Angeles, on May 28. The criminal complaint was dated Tuesday.

A call to Dourdan's attorneys wasn't immediately returned early Thursday.

Dourdan has played crime scene investigator Warrick Brown on CBS' "CSI" since 2000.

Several celebrities were in Palm Springs for the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in nearby Indio.



In this Jan 14, 1998 file photo country singer Trace Adkins poses during an interview in Nashville, Tenn.

AP

Voting with your feet is one way to end political argument

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was taught that when you don't know a person's political affiliation, it is impolite to discuss politics, especially if it involves disparaging others (name-calling, putting down political candidates, etc.).

I am often approached by people seeking agreement with their views. They make insulting comments regarding the political views of others and then say, "Right?" This makes me terribly uncomfortable, so I often say nothing, which only further fuels them to continue their negative diatribes.

How do I stop these political assaults and let them know I find it rude without being rude myself?

—WANTS TO BE POLITE IN COLORADO



Dear Abby

DEAR WANTS TO BE POLITE: There is nothing impolite about saying, "You know, this topic of conversation is making me uncomfortable. Can we please change it?" And if the person persists, it is also not impolite to excuse yourself because you have some previous business to attend to. And that's what I'm advising you to do, because to stand and listen implies agreement.

DEAR ABBY: As Mother's Day approaches, please remind your readers to appreciate and SPEND TIME with their mothers while they are on this Earth. This year, Mother's Day will mark exactly one year since my dear, sweet mother died in my home. She had been living in a nursing home for more than two years, suffering from dementia, but got pneumonia. I brought her to my home from the hospital for the last two weeks of her life.

I am left with so many "what ifs" and "I should haves," but I did the best I could with what I knew then. I saw so many patients in the nursing home who seldom—if ever—had any visitors, it made me sick.

I just want everyone to take time in their busy lives to devote to their parents while they are still here. I am grateful that God gave us those last two weeks with Mom. I feel she knew where she was, and it brought all of us peace. There were too many times I was "too busy" with my family. Please just be there for your mom or dad.

—WISHING MOM WERE HERE, IN EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

DEAR WISHING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your dear mother. For you, Mother's Day will always carry with it a tinge of sadness. Please do not burden yourself further with "what ifs" and "should haves." Live in the moment. Regret is the cancer of life. When you visit the cemetery, you might find comfort in reciting the following prayer from the Hebrew Union Prayer Book:

"I remember thee in this solemn hour, my dear mother. I remember the days when thou didst dwell on earth, and thy tender love watched over me like a guardian angel. Thou hast gone from me, but the bond which unites our souls can never be severed; thine image lives within my heart. May the merciful Father reward thee for the faithfulness and kindness thou hast ever shown me; may he lift up the light of his countenance upon thee and grant thee eternal peace! Amen."

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are wondering if you could settle an etiquette question. We don't want our neighbors to hate us, so on Saturdays or Sundays, how early can we start using heavy lawn care equipment, like chain saws and wood chippers?

—SLEEPING IN FROM CALIFORNIA

DEAR SLEEPING IN: You're asking the wrong person. Ask your neighbors and see if you can arrange a time that is agreeable to all of you. But first check to see what the local noise ordinance dictates.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



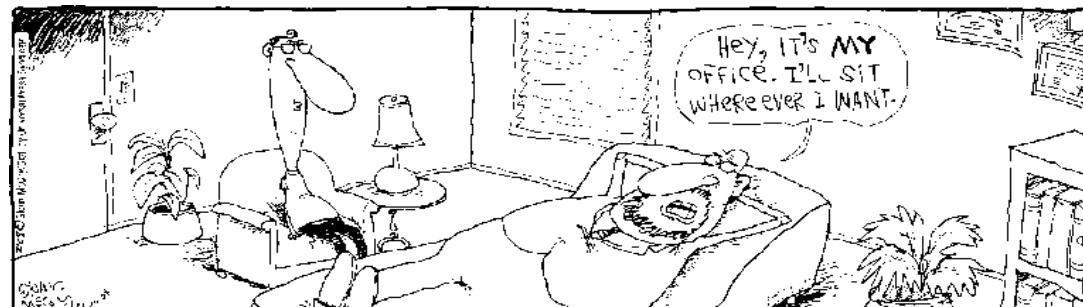
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

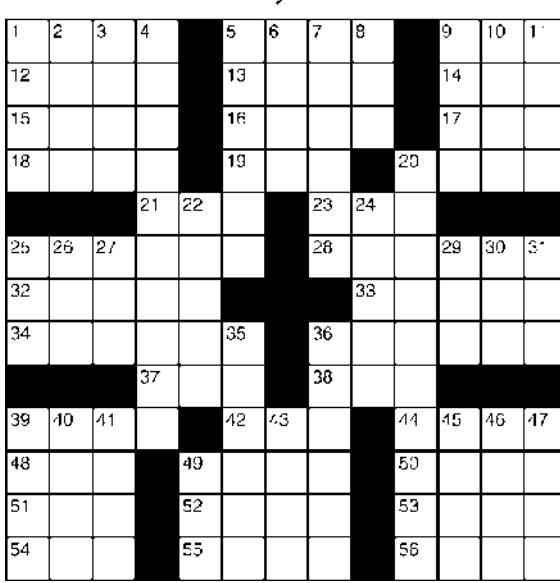
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33	News-	56	Attempt	20	Cheap
1	Mine in part	paper, usually	5	22	factories	10
5	Entreaty	34	Personal-	1	Pleated	11
9	Pump up the volume	36	ity	2	Trim	12
12	Ship's front	37	Start a town	3	on a garment	13
13	— letters	38	Crucial	4	24	Se-
14	Christian Andersen	39	18th	5	quence	14
15	Ball prop	40	Luggage	25	Baby food	15
16	Being, to Brutus	41	Sprite	26	Billboards	16
17	Ship's front	42	Drove	27	Bashful	17
18	Pruritic feeling	43	44	29	Healthy	18
19	Undivided	45	E.T.'s	30	3 The	19
20	Houston acronym	46	Brutus	whole	whole	20
21	Meadow attachment	47	craft	21	enchilada	21
22	Boot	48	12	32	31 "See ya!"	22
23	attaching	49	13	44	35 It's often	23
24	Less than	50	14	45	covered	24
25	quadrilateral		15	46	in shadow	25
26	Take blades to blades		16	47	36 OSHA	26
27	blades to blades		17	48	concern	27
28	Decline		18	49	39 Enthusiast	28
29	Easily assembled		19	50	40 Way out	29
30	For this purpose		20		there	30
			21	51	41 Attend	31
			22	52	43 Breather?	32
				53	45 Tend	33
				54	46 Santa —	34
				55	47 Unexciting	35
					48	49 The girl

Solution time: 27 mins.

 Yesterday's answer 5-10



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keenan Thompson, 30; Jason Brooks, 42; Bono, 48; Donovan, 62

Happy Birthday: Being stubborn will slow you down and hold you back this year. Instead, make your moves with clear vision and confidence. It's time for change but only you can make it happen. This year is about getting what you want. Happiness will follow if you are strong in your convictions and willing to go it alone. Your numbers are 12, 24, 27, 32, 44, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a moment and listen to any complaints. It will help to smooth things over and make your weekend more enjoyable. Challenging activities that get you motivated and moving should be scheduled in. Don't leave things unfinished. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't argue about who should be doing what around the house—just get busy so you can enjoy yourself. An opportunity to try something a little different will make you crave more excitement in your everyday life. Travel, social events and physical activities will lift your spirits. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Getting into serious conversations will result in emotional discord. Someone will overreact to your suggestions and give you a hard time. Don't exaggerate in order to make your point. Stick to the facts and you'll win the discussion. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Compromise will be required if you want to avoid emotional outbursts. There is advancement and cash in the stars if you do your best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money, investments and taking care of personal business should be your focus.

Something pertaining to work or a prospect for a new job is looming. Don't relax now when you have so much to gain through research and relentless pursuit. ☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A lifestyle change is in order, at least for the

Someone with whom you associate will have the experience you need for a future project. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Too much of anything will work against you. You can't buy love or friendship, so don't offer to pay for everyone. Someone with authority will stop you if you do something wrong. Avoid embarrassment by keeping a low profile. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Help someone out who has been struggling and you will gain respect as well as a lifelong friend. You'll be a strong competitor, playing and working hard. Participation will be what counts today. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will find a way to subsidize your expenses. A part-time job or selling something you have will turn into a prosperous venture. Pull together your attributes and get ahead. Overindulgent people should be avoided. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An emotional outburst will work against you. If you plan too far ahead, you will probably change your mind about following through. Someone may not give you all the information you want. Ask specific questions. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money, investments and taking care of personal business should be your focus. Something pertaining to work or a prospect for a new job is looming. Don't relax now when you have so much to gain through research and relentless pursuit. ☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A lifestyle change is in order, at least for the

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

weekend. It will give you the break you need and allow you the freedom to separate yourself from the everyday stress. Draw up some special plans for fun and entertainment. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can talk your way in and out of any situation you face but stick to the truth or you will back yourself into an emotional corner. You can learn some interesting facts from someone with more experience. A trip will help you stabilize your position. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you set your mind to it, you can accomplish what you set out to do and get others to do things for you as well. Getting involved in a worthy cause or an organization of a serious nature will help you meet someone remarkable. ☀

Birthday Baby: You have a wonderful memory and an adaptable mind. You are strong, open and steady. No matter what the situation, you can be depended on.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1	5	2		6
9			4	7
3				
1		7		
2	3	4		
			3	
5	7		2	
9	4	3	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	4	6	9	3	1	5	7
1	6	3	5	2	7	4	9	8
9	7	5	8	4	1	2	6	3
3	5	9	2	7	8	6	1	4
4	8	2	1	5	6	3	7	9
7	1	6	9	3	4	8	2	5
5	9	1	4	8	2	7	3	6
6	4	7	3	1	5	9	8	2
2	3	8	7	6	9	5	4	1

Diff. level: Less ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The 'clue' letters spell the Wonderword.

DENTAL WHITENING STRIPS

C T S E N S I T I V I T Y D B
 R O U T L E E P E V I V E R R
 O F D M N I U P P E R E I E A
 W R I A U E M C R M P G V P N
 N E S P I I I S O I H E P N D
 A S C I F I D D F I A I I G S
 T H O N E R Y O E L Y A N T Y
 U E L E A G O N S R T I I R R
 R N O R T N I X S S G K H E A
 A L R D H N E W I A M N U S R
 L E A L G T C T O D H U I T O
 U M T I I R A E N L E T G O P
 G A I H L A R I A I G S E R M
 C N O C P Y E D L L A R O E E
 R E N E W S T R E A T M E N T

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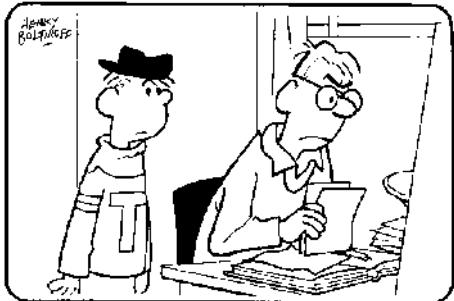
Aging, Apply, Brand, Brightening, Care, Children, Crown, Daily, Diet, Discoloration, Frame, Fresher, Gels, Glow, Gums, Ingrid ents, Kits, Light, Maintenance, Natural, Oral, Peel, Peroxide, Professional, Regular, Renew, Restore, Revive, Sensitive, Smile, Sod um, Stain, Teeth, Temporary, Time, Trays, Treatment, Upper.

Yesterday's Answer: Dignity

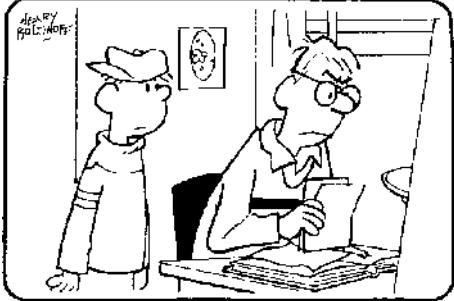
No answers to today's puzzle will be accepted. For more information, visit www.wonderword.com. Send your answers to P.O. Box 5000, King Features Syndicate, Inc., 355 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Please include a self-addressed envelope with 50¢ postage. For more information, visit www.wonderword.com.

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Wishing Well®



HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword TAG-SELL LINES

ACROSS	60	Mindy of "The Facts of Life"	110	Urban transport	8	Augsburg a title	42	Browning's bedtime?	89	Praises
1	Act like a peacock	61	Transport	113	Nutritional need	9	Guitarist	90	Guitarist	
5	Had kittens?	62	Believin'	116	Fashionably	10	Abu Hassan	91	Duane	
6	Kittens?	63	"66 hit"	119	host, e.g.	—	—	92	Scolded	
10	Played the trumpet	64	Colleagues	120	Ready for dinner	11	Iran's	93	Author	
16	Holbrook or Linden	65	Cob, CT	123	Poetic preposition	12	German	94	LeShan	
19	Sadium	66	Kittens	124	"AN" ANIQUIT	13	pot	95	—	
20	Marathon	67	Kind of the com	125	THEAS-LHE	14	Prongs	96	LeShan	
21	Not very often	68	Observe	126	Architect's action	15	Optical device	97	—	
22	Geologic divisor	70	"ONE OF A KIND"	127	73 Abba hit	16	Hispanic money	98	LeShan	
23	"REQUIRES MINOR REPAIR"	73	Numbers man?	130	73 Olympian Gertrude	17	Watch keepers?	99	Soviet	
26	Free (adj.)	74	Actress	132	"The Seventh" —	18	Trim the turf	100	cooperative	
27	Touched up the text	75	Ward	133	Terps play	19	Genie	101	Mark	
28	Rance rope	76	Parties	134	er Richards	20	Francis role	102	Nerd	
29	Grawl	80	Coarse file	135	Big bang	21	—	103	Soviet	
30	Dear's lar	86	Auto	136	Keys	22	—	104	cooperative	
31	Singer Tori	88	feature abbr.	137	Moor	23	Trim the	105	LeShan	
34	Opinion sampling	90	What have you	138	Mullins' brother	24	Mark	106	Mark	
37	Latvia, once abbr.	92	Salad type	139	Imitation	25	—	107	LeShan	
40	Lucife	94	"Psychic"	140	Debutfire	26	Thornfield	108	LeShan	
42	Receda	98	Setting	141	193 film	27	governess	109	LeShan	
45	Alex Haley book	99	"A FAMILY HEIR LOCMT"	142	Skunk in "Bambi"	28	Hero's	110	LeShan	
48	"ONLY WORN ONCE"	103	Music of "Tomorrow"	143	Tall story?	29	Home	111	LeShan	
54	Schnabel or Rubinstein	104	Mineral	144	Ancy Griffith	30	Thornfield	112	LeShan	
55	Up to, for short	105	Spring	145	series	31	governess	113	LeShan	
56	Private	106	Tragedy	146	Yoko —	32	Butterly	114	LeShan	
57	Opera hero, often	107	happy guy?	147	Supper scrap	33	Hero's	115	LeShan	
58	Illinois city	109	Notion	148	Clinton	34	Home	116	LeShan	
			Clutter	149	Carb	35	Thornfield	117	LeShan	
				150	Mass ppn	36	governess	118	LeShan	
				151	senator	37	Butterly	119	LeShan	
				152	5 Supper	38	Hero's	120	LeShan	
				153	scraps	39	Home	121	LeShan	
				154	Mass ppn	40	Thornfield	122	LeShan	
				155	senator	41	governess	123	LeShan	
				156	5 Supper	42	Butterly	124	LeShan	
				157	scraps	43	Hero's	125	LeShan	
				158	Mass ppn	44	Home	126	LeShan	
				159	senator	45	Thornfield	127	LeShan	
				160	5 Supper	46	Butterly	128	LeShan	
				161	scraps	47	Hero's	129	LeShan	
				162	Mass ppn	48	Home	130	LeShan	
				163	senator	49	Thornfield	131	LeShan	
				164	5 Supper	50	Butterly	132	LeShan	
				165	scraps	51	Hero's	133	LeShan	
				166	Mass ppn	52	Home	134	LeShan	
				167	senator	53	Thornfield	135	LeShan	
				168	5 Supper	54	Butterly	136	LeShan	
				169	scraps	55	Hero's	137	LeShan	
				170	Mass ppn	56	Home	138	LeShan	
				171	senator	57	Thornfield	139	LeShan	
				172	5 Supper	58	Butterly	140	LeShan	
				173	scraps	59	Hero's	141	LeShan	
				174	Mass ppn	60	Home	142	LeShan	
				175	senator	61	Thornfield	143	LeShan	
				176	5 Supper	62	Butterly	144	LeShan	
				177	scraps	63	Hero's	145	LeShan	
				178	Mass ppn	64	Home	146	LeShan	
				179	senator	65	Thornfield	147	LeShan	
				180	5 Supper	66	Butterly	148	LeShan	
				181	scraps	67	Hero's	149	LeShan	
				182	Mass ppn	68	Home	150	LeShan	
				183	senator	69	Thornfield	151	LeShan	
				184	5 Supper	70	Butterly	152	LeShan	
				185	scraps	71	Hero's	153	LeShan	
				186	Mass ppn	72	Home	154	LeShan	
				187	senator	73	Thornfield	155	LeShan	
				188	5 Supper	74	Butterly	156	LeShan	
				189	scraps	75	Hero's	157	LeShan	
				190	Mass ppn	76	Home	158	LeShan	
				191	senator	77	Thornfield	159	LeShan	
				192	5 Supper	78	Butterly	160	LeShan	
				193	scraps	79	Hero's	161	LeShan	
				194	Mass ppn	80	Home	162	LeShan	
				195	senator	81	Thornfield	163	LeShan	
				196	5 Supper	82	Butterly	164	LeShan	
				197	scraps	83	Hero's	165	LeShan	
				198	Mass ppn	84	Home	166	LeShan	
				199	senator	85	Thornfield	167	LeShan	
				200	5 Supper	86	Butterly	168	LeShan	
				201	scraps	87	Hero's	169	LeShan	
				202	Mass ppn	88	Home	170	LeShan	
				203	senator	89	Thornfield	171	LeShan	
				204	5 Supper	90	Butterly	172	LeShan	
				205	scraps	91	Hero's	173	LeShan	
				206	Mass ppn	92	Home	174	LeShan	
				207	senator	93	Thornfield	175	LeShan	
				208	5 Supper	94	Butterly	176	LeShan	
				209	scraps	95	Hero's	177	LeShan	

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner \$25
- 5-Liner \$35
- 3-Liner with picture \$45
- 5-Liner with picture \$55

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- 3-Liner \$25
- 5-Liner \$35
- 3-Liner with picture \$45
- 5-Liner with picture \$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Bud's Bar

4 SALE

\$20,000 or make offer
Come see to appreciate
898-4866 Cell • 233-1113 Bar
Contact Leslie Jackson

WANTED

HOUSEWORKER

LIVE-IN/LIVE-OUT
PLEASE CALL:
234-3647 or 888-5748

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent
Koblerville, 2 bedroom
\$230.00. Tel. 288-0728

WHATZIT Solution: Lay it on thick

MISCELLANEOUS

USSP CLUB (Mon/Tue/Wed Nights) Happy hour prices all night-5pm-2am. Live music-Tue/Wed nights-\$2.50/beer, Mon night-\$2.25/beer

FOR SALE

1-bedroom/build-in 20ft container wall to wall carpet w/ 12BTU split-type aircon. \$3,500 or best offer/call Rose-233-1984,8am-6pm

Retail store equipments & inventories. More than enough to open new business. All for \$5,500/or best offer-233-1984

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

WANTED AVON

REPRESENTATIVE and earn 30% to 50% commission. Pls. contact Joy Jeter or Jojo Faller at 483-1971, 323-4455 or 483-1097, 287-9300

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

WANTED

**FORKLIFT (1.5 OR 2.5)
AND
1,000 AND 10,000 POUNDS
WEIGHING SCALE**
PLEASE CONTACT 235-4000

NEW Rattan Furniture FOR SALE

**Expensive material
Call 789-1625**

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

**3-LINER AD
\$25**

**3-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO
\$45**

**5-LINER AD
\$35**

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Parker, Ginobili both score 31 in Spurs' Game 3 win



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—There was no third-quarter breakdown for the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday night, just the desperate play of a team whose quest for a second straight NBA title was on the line.

Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili both scored 31 points to lead the Spurs to a 110-99 victory over the New Orleans Hornets in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinals.

With the win, the Spurs avoided falling into an ominous 0-3 hole from which no NBA team has never returned.

Chris Paul led the Hornets, who still hold a 2-1 series lead, with 35 points and nine assists. David West had 23 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans, which was dominant in the first two games of the series.

Game 4 is Sunday night in San Antonio.

With the Spurs' win, the home teams are 10-0 in the four conference semifinal series.

After trading leads all night, the Spurs led 83-78 entering the fourth quarter.

Ginobili led a Spurs charge early in the final period. Left alone, he hit a wide-open 3 and was fouled by Bonzi Wells, who scrambled at him to guard the shot. Ginobili's free throw put San Antonio up 87-82, and another 3 by Ginobili 38 seconds later made it 90-84.

New Orleans got within 90-88 before the Spurs took over, playing out the fourth quarter better than they have played all series.

San Antonio went on an 11-0 burst

featuring Ginobili, Parker and Tim Duncan to take a 101-88 lead with 5:57 to play.

The Spurs couldn't stop Paul, but West missed three of four free throws and the Hornets got no closer than 10 points in the latter half of the quarter.

The Spurs outscored the Hornets 27-21 in the fourth with Parker and Ginobili combining for 17 points.

Duncan had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

The Hornets took an 8-0 lead in the first quarter before the Spurs evened things and started the second quarter down 23-21.

While Bruce Bowen was largely successful in containing 3-point sharpshooter Peja Stojakovic in the first half, West and Paul, the stars of Games 1 and 2, were let loose and shot a combined 14-of-21 to account for 30 of the Hornets' points at halftime.

Tyson Chandler dunked alley-oop passes from West, Paul and Wells in the first half, each time quieting the raucous Spurs crowd that took to boozing both the officials and the Hornets.

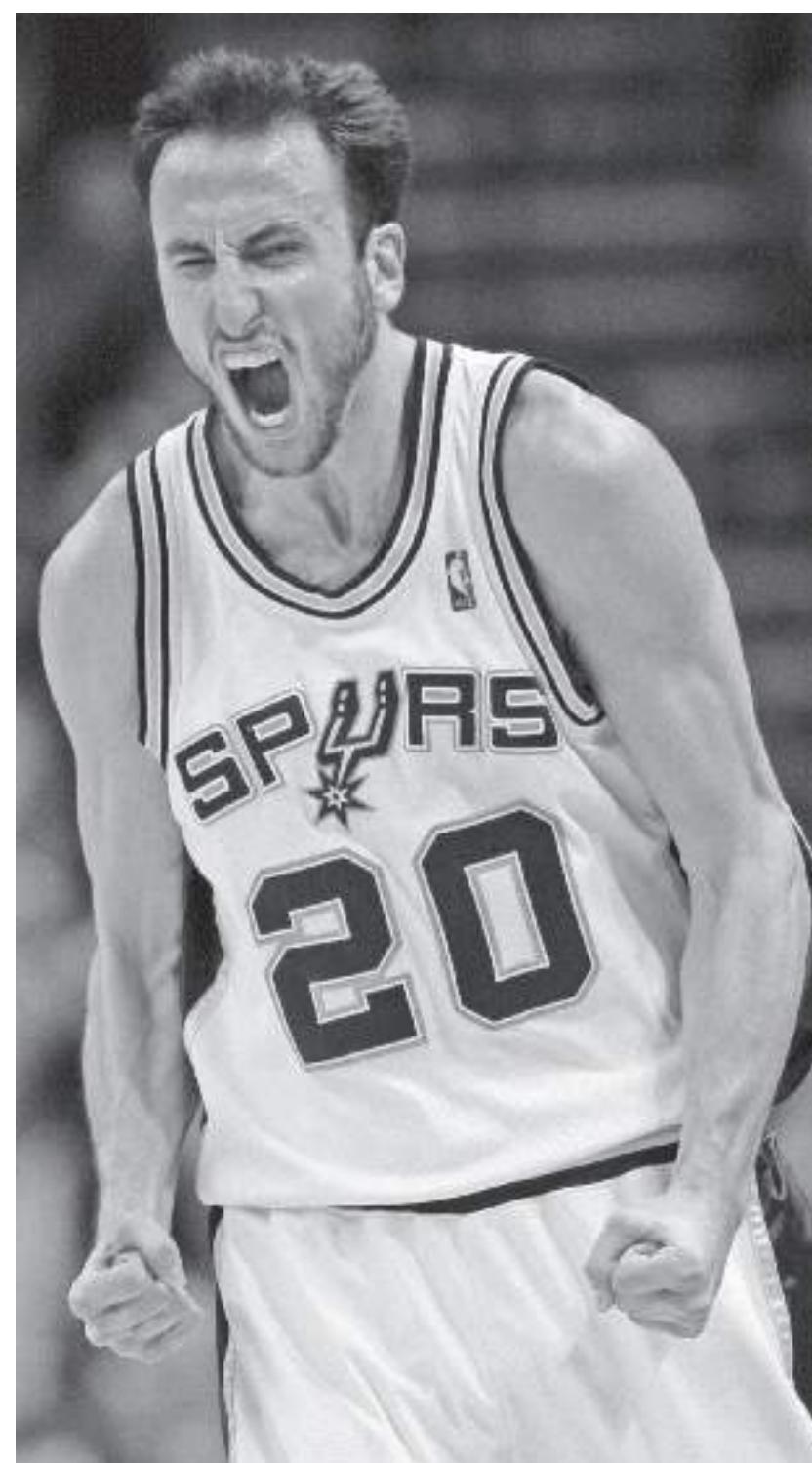
The Spurs led by as many as four points in the second quarter after Michael Finley, who came off the bench because usual reserve Ginobili started, hit a corner 3 to give San Antonio a 41-37 lead.

After Parker hit a jumper with 49 seconds to play in the first half, Stojakovic and Morris Peterson each hit 3s to leave the Spurs down 56-49 with 23 seconds left. But Bowen hit a 3 and Ginobili hit a buzzer-beating jumper to bring San Antonio within 56-54 at halftime.

Duncan was quiet in the first half with just five points as New Orleans' double-teams continued to hamper him.

In the third the Spurs did not break down as they did in Games 1 and 2 when New Orleans took control. Their Big 3—Duncan, Parker and Ginobili—took over, scoring all but three of San Antonio's 29 points in the period.

But the Hornets wouldn't go away as Paul scored 11 points in the quarter. Late in the period he hit a shot when he flipped up the ball as he spun around and put his back to the basket. Paul also got fouled for a three-point play to bring the Hornets within 77-76.



AP
San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, of Argentina, reacts after scoring against the New Orleans Hornets during the fourth quarter of Game 3 in an NBA Western Conference semifinal basketball series Thursday, May 8, 2008, in San Antonio.

Celtics 89, Cavaliers 73

At Boston, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen found their shooting touch. LeBron James can only hope he left his in Cleveland.

Pierce scored 19 points, Kevin Garnett added 13 with 12 rebounds, and Allen broke out of a seven-quarter scoring drought with 16 points to help the Boston Celtics beat the Cavaliers 89-73

Pistons' Billups still sore, unsure he can go in Game 4

TONS guard's legs split open and he fell to the floor. That was four minutes into the game, and Billups didn't return.

"It's feeling sore, kind of similar to last night," Billups said Thursday.

He and the Pistons said he'd be a game-time call. Detroit leads the best-of-seven series 2-1.

"That's going to be a decision Arnie and him are going to have to make," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "If he's ready to go he's going to play. If he doesn't go it's more than likely that he's not going to be able to function at a high enough percentage to where it's going to matter if he plays or not."

The good news, Kander said, is it wasn't a high-velocity injury—the kind that can cause a track sprinter to immediately seize up.

"This was just stretch-related," Kander said. "He went a little beyond his normal range. But you don't fear these as much as the ones that are speed-based."

Kander said the team wouldn't per-

form an MRI because it wouldn't provide any information.

"You can tell more by your hands," Kander said. "The fibers felt great. He was walking as he left the arena, walking normally. He was looking good. If he feels as good in the morning as he did last night, to me that's tremendous. Usually in the morning you feel really bad, and he didn't."

Kander said it also helped that the Pistons had two days between games, and were able to spend it in Orlando's 90 degree weather.

Nelson said he was preparing to face Billups again, though rookie Rodney Stuckey performed well in the All-Star's absence, scoring 19 points but dishing just two assists.

"That's a scary situation, because a lot of times when a team's best player is hurt other guys step up, kind of licking their chops, waiting for the opportunity," Nelson said. "NBA guys are going to be ready. Look at Stuckey last

on Thursday night and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

One game after going 2-for-18 from the field and missing his last six shots, including a layup to tie the game with 8.5 seconds left, James missed his first three tries and finished with 21 points on 6-for-24 shooting.

This time it was contagious: The Cavaliers shot 35.6 percent in the game, hitting just 11.8 percent in the second quarter as Boston turned an eight-point deficit into a nine-point lead.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Cleveland. The Cavaliers will need their crowd to pull them out of their funk because the Celtics are 6-0 in the playoffs in Boston, and they would have the homecourt advantage through the NBA finals.

James—who was serenaded by the fans with a chant of "Over-rated!"—could benefit most of all. He went 3-for-8 from the field in the first quarter but went 1-for-11 over the second and third when Boston took control.

From early in the second quarter to early in the third, a span of 13:41, Boston outscored Cleveland 36-10.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 19 points for the Cavaliers.

Cleveland reserve Anderson Varejao had 10 rebounds in 32 minutes after forward Ben Wallace went to the locker room just 3:40 into the game due to dizziness. He sat on the bench for the second quarter and took some shots during halftime warmups, but did not return to the game.

Pierce (2-for-14 in Game 1) and Allen (0-for-4) snapped out of whatever ailed them. Pierce did it right away, with seven points in the first quarter, but Allen took a little more time.

The third member of Boston's Big Three hadn't scored since hitting a 3-pointer with 8:48 left in the third quarter of Game 7 against Atlanta. Boston finished off the Hawks with just seven points from the Allen, who shot 3-for-12 in the first-round finale.

He missed his first four shots Thursday, but got the ball back for the first basket of the second half as the Celtics scored the first 10 points of the third quarter to take a 54-36 lead. The Cavaliers cut it to 12 on James' only basket of the quarter, but they spent most of the fourth quarter trailing by 20.

night, he came in and did a good job."

Immediately after Billups was knocked out, the Magic launched an 18-4 run to blow open an 18-point lead, at that point their biggest of the series. The Magic think they could've won even with Detroit at full strength, and Billups seemed to agree. Orlando hit 11 of 24 3-pointers and Rashard Lewis scored 33, breaking down the only defense that hadn't given up 100 points in the postseason.

"Yeah, I have a nice impact, but I tell you what man, that team, I don't know what could have stopped them last night," Billups said. "I don't even know if my presence could have helped. They played great."

Kander said Detroit would work Billups out Friday and Saturday to gauge his progress.

"We don't give a number, say 85 or 90 percent, because there's no way to classify that," Kander said. "When he can do everything he's capable of doing, then we'll give him the go-ahead to play."

Joining Bryant on the first team were New Orleans guard Chris Paul, who was three votes shy of being a unanimous pick, along with Boston's Kevin Garnett, Cleveland's LeBron James and Orlando center Dwight Howard.

Garnett was a first-team pick for the fourth time and James made his second appearance. Paul and Howard were first-timers.

Voting was done by a panel of 127 sports writers and broadcasters, with points being awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

Amare Stoudemire and Steve Nash of Phoenix were voted to the second team along with San Antonio's Tim Duncan, Utah guard Deron Williams and Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki. The third team consisted of Houston's Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady, plus Utah's Carlos Boozer, Boston's Paul Pierce and the Spurs' Manu Ginobili, the league's top sixth man.

Beckett gets 1,000th strikeout as Red Sox down Tigers



DETROIT (AP)—
Josh Beckett threw his 1,000th career strikeout as the Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 5-1 in the American League on Thursday.

Beckett threw eight strikeouts in all, giving up only one run in seven innings, while Kevin Youkilis hit his third home run in two games for Boston.

The Red Sox have won six of their past seven, while Detroit has lost six of seven.

Rangers 5, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Ian Kinsler hit a two-run homer and then got hit by a pitch, sparking a brawl as Texas shut down Seattle.

After Kinsler was hit in the top of the fourth inning, and chose not to react, Mariners slugger Richie Sexson received a head-high pitch in the bottom of the inning in apparent retribution. Sexson charged the mound and flung his helmet at Rangers pitcher Kason Gabbard, prompting both benches to clear. Sexson was ejected.

Seattle hasn't scored in 22 straight innings.

Yankees 6, Indians 3

In New York, four Yankees homered as New York beat Cleveland.

Jason Giambi, Johnny Damon, Robinson Cano and Wilson Betemit all went long for the Yankees, who prevented being swept at home by the Indians for the first time since 1989.

The four home runs tied New York's season high.

Orioles 4, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Baltimore snapped a five-game losing streak by downing Kansas City.

Daniel Cabrera threw a three-hitter to remain perfect against Kansas City and Nick Markakis backed him with a three-run homer.

Cabrera struck out seven and walked one in his fifth career complete game and first since 2006.

In seven career starts against the Royals, the right-hander who had an

AL-high 18 losses last year, is 4-0.

White Sox 6, Twins 2

In Chicago, Jermaine Dye homered for the third straight game as Chicago beat Minnesota.

Juan Uribe added a go-ahead two-run drive in the fifth for the White Sox.

Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire returned after missing five games following the death of his brother, but his first game back was an abbreviated one. He was ejected for the 37th time in his career and first time this season in the sixth inning.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 3, 13 innings

In Toronto, Dioner Navarro hit a grand-slam homer in the 13th inning as Tampa Bay downed Toronto.

Carl Crawford drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly before Navarro added four more.

Those hits snapped a run of 17 consecutive scoreless innings by the Blue Jays bullpen. Toronto was left to rue wasted scoring chances, including failing to convert after a lead-off triple in the 10th inning.

Diamondbacks 8, Phillies 3

In Phoenix, Brandon Webb became the first pitcher to win his first eight starts in three years, tossing his 13th career complete game to help the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

The 2006 National League Cy Young pitching award winner struck out four and didn't walk a batter in his first complete game of the year. He hit one batter.

Webb (8-0) became the first pitcher to win his first eight starts since Jon Garland of the Chicago White Sox in 2005 and the first in the NL since Pedro Martinez for Montreal in 1997.

Webb stifled the Phillies on three hits through eight innings before allowing two runs and three hits in the ninth. Philadelphia's first-inning run was unearned.

Chris Young hit a two-run drive, his



AP

Boston Red Sox starter Josh Beckett pitches against the Detroit Tigers in the second inning of a baseball game Thursday, May 8, 2008, in Detroit.

second homer in as many games, and Chris Snyder had a two-run double for the Diamondbacks, who split a four-game series with Philadelphia to finish their longest homestand of the season 5-5. Justin Upton added a solo home run for Arizona.

Nationals 8, Astros 3

In Houston, Willie Harris and Rob

Mackowiak homered and Washington ended Houston's five-game winning streak.

John Lannan (3-3) allowed seven hits in six innings and the Nationals snapped Houston's eight-game winning streak at Minute Maid Park. The Astros averaged 7.3 runs and 11.5 hits in their previous eight home games.

tournament to successfully defend his title, was flirting with the leaders until a sloppy middle to his round put him at 70. Coming off consecutive birdies, including a wedge to 4 feet on the 17th, Mickelson failed to reach the 18th green from the right rough, then made bogey from 95 yards away in the middle of the fairway on No. 1.

"I feel as though I'm turning 66s into 70s, and I'm going to have to fix that this weekend," he said. "I'm going to have to stop letting those shots slide in the middle of the round that are costing me in the end. But I would have taken anything under par starting the day."

Garcia might face a tougher task in the second round, for he also played in the morning. Only eight of the 34 rounds under par came in the afternoon with increasingly blustery conditions.

Todd Hamilton was the best among late starters with a 69, while Wachovia winner Anthony Kim rallied for a 70.

Goydos was among 19 players who contributed 20 balls into the pond that surrounds the island green, although he escaped with bogey that changed his fortunes. Goydos rode that save to three straight birdies on his back nine and a round in the 60s for the first time in his 10 trips to The Players Championship.

"Skipping 18 was a good idea, though," Goydos said.

Phil Mickelson, trying to become the first player in the history of this

tournament to successfully defend his title, was flirting with the leaders until a sloppy middle to his round put him at 70. Coming off consecutive birdies, including a wedge to 4 feet on the 17th, Mickelson failed to reach the 18th green from the right rough, then made bogey from 95 yards away in the middle of the fairway on No. 1.

"My main idea was to get back to the way I used to putt, like 10 or 12 years ago, when I was a good putter," Garcia said. "At least now I have some rounds where I come out and say I actually shot what I should have shot, and not come out and think, 'I should have been four or five shots better' ... which is always not very nice."

He is tied with Adam Scott for most PGA Tour victories (six) by players under 30, although it was hard to fathom how he could go nearly three years without winning.

"It's no secret to anybody that he's been struggling with his putting for a little while, but as soon as he gets it right, we all know he's going to be winning," said Ian Poulter, among five players at 69. "I know he's working hard, and I'm sure he'll be in the winner's circle as soon as he gets it right. It may be this week. If he's putting well this week, then who knows? And watch out."

Garcia builds an early lead at Sawgrass



PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—

The flag was in a tempting location, back and left on the 13th green at the TPC Sawgrass with a pond running along side the left side. Sergio Garcia took dead aim with a 7-iron and the ball never left its target.

This is nothing new with Garcia, who rarely struggles to make solid contact.

What pleased him was to see the 6-foot putt break sharply toward the water and drop into the center of the cup for one of seven birdies Thursday at The Players Championship, leading to a 6-under 66 and a two-shot lead.

"I'm just looking forward to keep doing the same things—keep hitting the ball well, keep chipping well and keep putting well," Garcia said. "And then hopefully, by the end of the week, we'll be where we are supposed to be."

That would be posing with a trophy, something Garcia has not done in nearly three years.

The 28-year-old Spaniard has strung

together three impressive rounds on the frightening Stadium Course, even if his timing is a little off. The first two scores (67-66) came last year and enabled him to finish second. This one was merely a great start, but he'll take it.

Garcia is mired in an 0-for-53 drought on the PGA Tour, the longest of his career, and while he is savvy enough to realize that leading after one round only amounts to a pat on the back, it was a small step in the right direction.

"At the end of the day, the only thing I can do is keep working on it, keep giving myself chances, and it's going to happen," Garcia said. "I feel like I'm getting closer and closer. At least now, I feel like I can do it, and it's just a matter of being able to do it."

Kenny Perry and Paul Goydos each had a 68 in the mild, morning breeze on a perfectly conditioned golf course. Sawgrass turned tricky, if not downright difficult, in the afternoon, and Ernie Els was among those who paid dearly.

Els was at 2 under until his wedge came up 20 feet short of the island green on the 17th, and he barely kept

his third shot on land. He wound up with a triple bogey, and a 12-foot birdie on the final hole for a 72 didn't improve his spirits much.

"I think they should blow it up," Els said. "Everything you worked for in 4 1/2 hours, in one shot it's all gone."

Garcia might face a tougher task in the second round, for he also played in the morning. Only eight of the 34 rounds under par came in the afternoon with increasingly blustery conditions.

Todd Hamilton was the best among late starters with a 69, while Wachovia winner Anthony Kim rallied for a 70.

Goydos was among 19 players who contributed 20 balls into the pond that surrounds the island green, although he escaped with bogey that changed his fortunes. Goydos rode that save to three straight birdies on his back nine and a round in the 60s for the first time in his 10 trips to The Players Championship.

"Skipping 18 was a good idea, though," Goydos said.

Phil Mickelson, trying to become the first player in the history of this

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	14	.622	—
Tampa Bay	18	16	.529	3 1/2
New York	18	18	.500	4 1/2
Baltimore	17	18	.486	5
Toronto	17	19	.472	5 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	17	16	.515	—
Chicago	16	17	.485	1
Cleveland	16	18	.471	1 1/2
Kansas City	15	19	.441	2 1/2
Detroit	15	21	.417	3 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	22	14	.611	—
Oakland	22	14	.611	—
Texas	16	20	.444	6
Seattle	14	22	.389	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	20	14	.588	—
Philadelphia	20	16	.556	1
Atlanta	18	15	.545	1 1/2
New York	17	15	.531	2
Washington	15	20	.429	5 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	22	14	.611	—
Chicago	19	15	.559	2
Houston	18	17	.514	3 1/2
Milwaukee	16	18	.471	5
Pittsburgh	15	19	.441	6
Cincinnati	14	21	.400	7 1/2

West Division

Arizona	23	12	.657	—
Los Angeles	19	15	.559	3 1/2
Colorado	14	21	.400	9
San Francisco	14	21	.400	9
San Diego	12	23	.343	11

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees	6	Cleveland	3
Chicago White Sox	6	Minnesota	2
Boston	5	Detroit	1
Tampa Bay	8	Toronto	3, 13 innings
Baltimore	4	Kansas City	1
Texas	5	Seattle	0
Pittsburgh	5	San Francisco	4
Atlanta	5	San Diego	4
Colorado	9	St. Louis	3
Arizona	8	Philadelphia	3
Florida	7	Milwaukee	2
Washington	8	Houston	3

TPC SAWGRASS SCORES

FIRST ROUND

Sergio Garcia	66	66	
Paul Goydos	68	68	
Kenny Perry	68	68	
Steve Elkington	69	69	
Niclas Fasth	69	69	
Todd Hamilton	69	69	
Ian Poulter	69	69	
Heath Slocum	69	69	
Angel Cabrera	70	70	
Fred Couples	70	70	
Ben Crane	70	70	
Miguel Angel Jimenez	70	70	
Anthony Kim	70	70	
Troy Matteson	70	70	
John Merrick	70	70	
Phil Mickelson	70	70	
Jose Maria Olazabal	70	70	
Brett Quigley	70	70	
Kevin Stadler	70	70	
Nicholas Thompson	70	70	
D.J. Trahan	70	70	
Boo Weekley	70	70	
Tommy Armour III	71	71	
Woody Austin	71	71	
Aaron Baddeley	71	71	
Briny Baird	71	71	
Stewart Cink	71	71	
Chris DiMarco	71	71	
Soren Hansen	71	71	
J.J. Henry	71	71	
Jeff Quinney	71	71	
Scott Verplank	71	71	
Mike Weir	71	71	
Brett Wetterich	71	71	
Stuart Appleby	72	72	
Rich Beem	72	72	
Alex Cejka	72	72	
Daniel Chopra	72	72	

By The Associated Press

MCS

From Page 28

pion Marianas Baptist Academy Stormz, 58-45, in the other semis match.

Aquino, who was held to two points in the opening period, paced the Knights with 23 points. He scored 14 points in the second period as MCS took control of the match.

White backed him up with 13 markers while Kim and Kang scattered 12 apiece.

SOPHIA

From Page 28

walk and get them special treats with early registration," he said.

Registration fee for 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day with T-shirt is \$8, while registration without T-shirt is \$3.

ONE

From Page 28

I'm still thankful for sure."

Happily for Fisher, his faith is strong enough to encompass the fact that some of the people who prayed for him that day may have been among those who booed him this season when he returned in a Lakers uniform.

Utah fans were more gracious in the Lakers' second visit, cheering when Fisher was introduced but the boos started again during the game and the postseason should only add to the hostility.

For many fans—like those in Staples Center who chanted "DUI" at Denver's Carmelo Anthony—a player is only an object, to be cheered or derided when it feels good.

For his part, Fisher always knew who he was and it was never the image he saw reflected in the fans' adoring gaze.

Fisher and Kobe Bryant arrived together as rookies in 1996 and Fisher was the earnest one who as a second-year backup point guard wrote his teammates a letter, trying to bring them together with Utah up, 3-0, in the 1998 Western Conference finals, while starter Nick Van Exel made "Cancun" jokes.

Fisher is still the earnest one, now a 12-year, first-string point guard with a family, around which everything else revolves.

Utah Owner Larry Miller

De Leon led the Eagles' losing cause finishing with 13 points, while Batallones added 12 more and Dae Won Jeon, who also plays volleyball for GCA, had a respectable 10 markers in his first season in basketball.

Earlier, Madison Smith and Melissa Halaby put on a two-pronged attack to help the SIS Lady Geckos score a 40-34 decision against the Lady Knights.

The win completed the Lady Geckos bid to claim their third straight crown while again foiling the Lady Knights' own title bid.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure, while World Walking Day was initiated by the International Federation of Popular Sports and is celebrated in the month of May by IVV member countries and direct member clubs around the world.

wondered out loud if he'd been set up by the Lakers when he released Fisher but the truth is, Fisher gave up three seasons worth \$22 million for Tatum, with no assurance the Lakers or anyone else was interested.

When Fisher signed with the Lakers, it was for \$8 million less, not that it was ever a decision.

From the moment Fisher and his wife, Candace, found out about the cancerous tumor in Tatum's eye, his career was on hold.

On May 9, 2007, the Fishers arose early in the morning in Manhattan with Tatum's surgery scheduled for 8 a.m., although it wound up being pushed back.

"That day, the toughest (part) was when we had to take her into the pre-op room and put her there for the last time and not see her for five hours, basically, until they were able to come back and tell us things went great."

With the wrung-out family allowed to take Tatum home and a Jazz charter standing by, playing that night was still the last thing on Fisher's mind.

"I didn't even know that Jerry (Sloan, Utah coach) decided to leave me on the active roster," says Fisher. "I talked to him after surgery once Tatum got up to recovery and just kinda gave he and Kevin (O'Connor, Jazz general manager) an update, that the surgery went great, that things were looking well."

They also prevented in what could have been a twin celebration for MCS after the Knights defeated the Eagles, 64-54, in the boys division.

Halaby and Smith both finished with 13 points, while Hae Jin Kim chipped in eight markers, all putbacks in the fourth period.

Noelle Calvo led the Lady Knights with 12 points but missed eight free throws, most of which in the final period where they were trailing by three. Nicole Lebria and Jessica

clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day. The IVV has member walking

down, Jerry's like 'Fish go in the game!'

"So I was like, 'Oh man.' My legs are wobbling. I don't even have a base really. So I was just telling myself just keep it simple, don't do anything in a hurry, don't try to shoot the ball, don't try to do anything."

"I think there was about three minutes left in the third quarter and I just wanted to get out of the quarter. I think I had one turnover but I was able to get out of that quarter without the thing falling apart."

"In the fourth quarter, he (Sloan) went back to DWill and some other guys



Beckett gets 1,000th strikeout as Red Sox down Tigers

Josh Beckett threw his 1,000th career strikeout as the Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 5-1 in the American League on Thursday.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008



Parker, Ginobili both score 31 in Spurs' Game 3 win

There was no third-quarter breakdown for the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday night, just the desperate play of a team whose quest for a second straight NBA title was on the line. 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MCS sweeps, SIS three-peats in PSL caging

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mt. Carmel School Knights completed its amazing run, while the Saipan International School Lady Geckos made it three in a row in the finals of the high school division of the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Knights pieced together a last quarter scoring rally to pull off a 64-54

win over the Grace Christian Academy Eagles in the boys' division, while the Lady Geckos foiled MCS' double celebration scoring a 40-34 decision against the Lady Knights.

Holding on to a 44-41 lead in the opening minutes of the final period, the Knights used a telling 15-3 run to establish a double-digit lead and distance themselves from their opponents.

That proved to be the final knockout punch that coach Abner Venus is looking for as the Eagles went cold and could not convert at the other end fail-



Coaches Abner Venus and Rob Epley celebrate with their respective teams, the Mt. Carmel School Knights, left, and Saipan International School Lady Geckos after winning the boys' and girls' division titles in the Private School League's high school basketball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ing to match the Knights' intensity.

The Knights piled up the points on breakaway fastbreak plays with the outgoing Kristian Aquino grabbing the ball off a number of the Eagles' missed shots and throwing an outlet

pass to fellow senior Joseph White, who in return would issue an assist to either Kim Meon Seong or Kang Sin Yeop at the other end.

What added to the GCA's woes is the transition and interior defense thrown

at them by the Knights as Venus put on a bigger man to guard their main scorers Renato Batallones and Kevin De Leon, who failed to nail the shots that they needed the most.

The win was the 11th straight for the

Knights to complete their undefeated season. The Knights slaughtered the Calvary Christian Academy Sharks, 112-21, to earn the first finals berth, while the Eagles stunned 2007 cham-

See MCS on Page 27

JON PEREZ

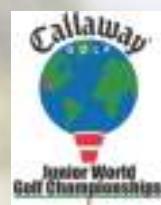
Another jr. golfer qualifies for San Diego



Brent Makana Salas will compete in the 7-8 age group of the 2008 Callaway Junior Golf Tournament set this coming July at the Sycuan Golf Resort in San Diego.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO
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The son of former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas and his wife Roxy will compete in the 2008 Callaway Junior Golf Tournament set this coming July at the Sycuan Golf Resort in San Diego.

Brent Makana Salas, who will play in the 7-8 age group, follows the footsteps of R.J. Macaranas who took part in the same competition last year.

Salas qualified after averaging 82.75 during the first two qualifying rounds held last month.

He scored an 88 on April 5 and an 84 on April 6 at Windward Hill Golf Course's 18-hole junior tee boxes.

Salas then scored a 79 on April 19 and an 80 on April 20 during the second qualifying round held at Admiral Nimitz Golf Course's par 3 course.

Carlos Salas, the current head of the Port
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By MARK HEISLER
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One year ago, Fisher had a special moment—for Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY—A year ago, Derek Fisher's life changed, or would have if it ever did, which it never really has.

A year ago to the day, Fisher made his dramatic return from New York City where his 10-month-old daughter had undergone eye surgery that morning to face his former teammates, the Golden State Warriors, in a playoff game.

Friday night on the same floor, Fisher will make yet another return against another set of former teammates, the Jazz, in another playoff game.

The patterns that recur in Fisher's life amaze him as much as anyone, although with his deep religiosity, anything—like going from the trauma of daughter Tatum's surgery to hitting the key three-pointer in a game two time zones away—is possible.

"It was life in a day, basically," Fisher said last week.

"To feel the threat of losing something that you love so dearly to then and go out and do something that you love so dearly, the game of basketball—to juggle those the same day was pretty remarkable."

"I still don't accept all the credit myself. I'm still a man of faith, not a perfect man at all, but I definitely believe I was being touched and watched over that day—probably because of people in Salt Lake City...."

"Without those thoughts and prayers, that day might not have happened the way it happened so

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SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day tomorrow

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A Mother's Day cake and cookies from Herman's Bakery will greet mothers who take part in tomorrow's 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day set along the scenic Saipan Beach Pathway.

The walk, organized by the



Saipan Walking Association, Inc., starts at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan at 7am.

SOPHIA spokesman Mario Espeleta said the event will have participants walk southward to

the Oleai bus stop and back for the 10-kilometer route, while five-kilometer participants only have to walk to the World War II Japanese Tank and back.

Sixteen members of the Nippon Turtle Club have already confirmed their attendance in the walk led by 86-year-old Jo Izuma. Izuma has been participating

in the World Walking Day event the past several years.

Espeleta said SAIWAI is thrilled that this year's SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day event coincides with Mother's Day.

"The event coincides with the Mother's Day so please bring your mothers and treat her to a healthy

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